

Israeli troops shoot dead West Banker

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian youth in the occupied West Bank Wednesday as Palestinians staged their first strike for more than six weeks, military sources said. Palestinians said renewed clashes and the commercial strike were signs their nearly 39-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation was back on track after the army stifled protest action with curfews at the start of the Gulf War. The military sources said troops fired at stone-throwers in Beit Rima village near Ramallah after the youths ignored orders to stop. One Palestinian died from his wounds before an army helicopter arrived to take him to hospital. Palestinians named the dead youth as 18-year-old Adli Al Barghouti. They said he was shot in the chest and head while trying to prevent soldiers from entering a school.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي.

SLA kills 5 in S. Lebanon

TEL AVIV (AP) — Five Palestinian guerrillas were killed Wednesday in a clash with the Israeli-backed militia in South Lebanon, the Israeli army command said. The army said in a statement that a South Lebanon Army militia patrol encountered the guerrillas near the village of Shihin, which is 3 kilometres north of the Israeli border in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon. The militiamen pursued the guerrillas, opened fire and killed all five, the army said. Israel radio said the guerrillas belonged to Nayef Hawatmeh's Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It added that Kalashnikov rifles and hand grenades were found on the bodies. The clash came a day after Katyusha rockets were fired at northern Israel from South Lebanon. They caused no damage or casualties. The security zone was set up in South Lebanon in 1985 to protect Israel's northern border from infiltrators. Israel carved out the zone after withdrawing the bulk of its troops after its 1982 invasion of Lebanon. The zone is patrolled by Israeli troops and the largely Christian South Lebanon Army militia.

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Basra under Baghdad's control

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQI REPUBLICAN Guard units appeared Wednesday to have regained control of Basra while disturbances flared in the northern Kurdish region.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein fired his interior minister and appointed to the post a cousin, who crushed a Kurdish rebellion in 1989.

The Kurds were the latest to join the revolt ignited in Basra, Iraq's second-largest city, after last week's Gulf war ceasefire.

Iraq's government-controlled Al Baath newspaper carried a signed article by Saddam's son Uday, in which he denied reports that he had been killed during the Basra rebellion.

In Riyadh, U.S. military sources said the pro-government Republican Guard apparently have controlled the rebellion in the city and were moving north to quell disturbances in Karbala, 100 kilometres south of Baghdad.

One of the U.S. military

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35 PoWs arrive in Riyadh

RIYADH, (AP) — A Red Cross plane carrying 35 former allied prisoners of war arrived at Riyadh Wednesday from Baghdad.

The chartered aircraft touched down at an air base about 1:15 p.m. (1315 GMT). The former PoWs — were greeted by officials of their respective governments as they came off the plane.

They were the second group of PoWs freed by Baghdad, which says it has now released all its Gulf war prisoners.

Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf, was among those on hand

to welcome the prisoners.

The plane was one of two on which 281 Iraqi PoWs were returned to Baghdad earlier in the day. They were the first Iraqi prisoners to be freed by the allies.

Bad weather had delayed the exchange by a day.

Also Wednesday, the British Ministry of Defence said it has released 32 Iraqis who had been held in England after it was determined they had military links.

But other Iraqis detained because they were believed to present security risks are still held by

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'Kuwait to hold democratic elections'

Combined agency dispatches

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait's prime minister vowed Wednesday to hold democratic elections and said no negotiations would be taken against the newly liberated country's large Palestinian community.

"I can't fix the date" for the elections, crown Prince Saad Abdullah Al Sabah told a news conference shortly before he met with British Prime Minister John Major, who flew here for a one-day visit.

"All I could say is when the

situation inside Kuwait allows it, I shall not hesitate to start the public elections," said Al Sabah, speaking as reconstruction of his war-torn country progressed.

A number of resident Palestinians have been accused of collaborating with Iraqi forces during the seven-month occupation, but the prince said most Palestinians tried to help Kuwaitis.

Earlier this week, Sheikh Ahmed Al Sabah, head of the main Kuwaiti resistance camp, said at least 10,000 Palestinians

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Israel ready to talk to Arab coalition members

Combined agency dispatches

LONDON (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy met with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Tuesday and discussed the opportunities for peace following the Gulf war.

The Foreign Office would not say to what extent agreement was reached on the attempt to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

But a department spokesman said, "both agreed that the result of the coalition efforts against Iraq offered opportunities to make progress towards peace and security in the region."

After his two-hour meeting with Hurd, Levy told the British Broadcasting Corp., "I am ready to speak to the leaders of the Arab countries face to face, directly," but he reiterated Israel's refusal to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Levy spoke through an interpreter.

Yossi Haddass, deputy director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, travelled with Levy

and later told Channel 1 News that although Israel preferred bilateral talks, it was willing to meet with the six Gulf states, Egypt and Syria, together.

"If they would invite us to talk directly, with no prior conditions, we are going to accept it," he told Independent Television News.

The eight were the principal Arab members of the anti-Arab coalition in the war.

He said the Gulf "found Israel in the same camp with these eight countries, so we have a common interest today."

"So here perhaps is a common ground for talking and having a new start for a political process to reach peace," Haddass said in English.

The international community now accepts the fact that the Arab-Israeli conflict is not the only conflict in the region. It's a very serious one with the Palestinian problem, certainly, so we would like to start with new thinking, fresh thinking, all of us together," Haddass said.

King, Mitterrand exchange views; Masri receives U.N. envoy Aime

AMMAN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a telephone call from French President Francois Mitterrand who expressed his pride in his friendship with the King and in bilateral relations between the Jordanian and French peoples.

Mr. Mitterrand landed King Hussein's wise leadership and affirmed France's support for Jordan, the Jordan News Agency, Petra reported. The French president also expressed appreciation of Jordan's balanced stands and its incessant efforts towards establishing peace in the Middle East.

Petra said the French leader expressed a desire to activate contacts with the King, who visited Paris twice in search of a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis before war broke out on Jan. 17.

France, a member of the U.S.-led coalition that forced Iraq out of Kuwait last week, backs the idea of an international Middle East peace conference to try to settle the Palestinian issue.

Jordan, which has long been working towards such a confer-



Francois Mitterrand

ence, now wants to build on world attention generated by the Gulf crisis to help settle the festering Palestinian problem.

But it has said it will not accept substitutes for the Palestine Liberation Organisation at any peace talks because it views the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Also on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri discussed the situation of Palestinians under Israeli rule with Jean-



Claude Aime, U.N. Secretary General

Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Aime is on a post-war tour of the region to prepare a report for Perez de Cuellar on the political situation in the region and long-term peace prospects.

Information Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine said Wednesday Jordan was not upset that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will not visit Amman as part of his own extensive Middle East tour, starting

Thursday.

Baker will visit Arab coalition allies Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria — as well as Turkey, Israel and the Soviet Union — to try to develop a new Middle East peace process.

"We don't feel angry, bitter, left out or anything of that sort. We take it as a visit to the countries that supported the United States during the war," Izzeddine told reporters during his daily briefing.

"We were left out of the trip because we are not members of this coalition," he said. "But we will have other diplomatic means to communicate with the United States."

Ties between the United States and Jordan were strained because of differences over the Gulf crisis in its early stages.

They were further strained when Jordan accused the United States and its allies of devastating Iraq and randomly killing women and children by air bombardment.

Jordan stayed neutral throughout the war.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives visiting Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark (Petra photo)

Canada exploring region's peace prospects — Clark

AMMAN (I.T.) — Canada is exploring Jordan's views on Middle East questions, Foreign Minister Joe Clark said upon arrival Wednesday.

Mr. Clark said he will discuss some post-war prospects with Jordanian officials.

Asked if the U.N. would force Israel to implement U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question, Mr. Clark said he did not think it would be the case. "Part of the U.N. system now has been demonstrated, that it can be effective with regard to the aggression against Kuwait, it will be important to demonstrate some progress on other vital questions including the question of the legitimate claims of the Palestinians," he said.

"That will not happen dramatically or overnight, but I think it is possible for some solid progress to be made," he added.

Asked whether the U.N. would impose sanctions on Israel, Mr. Clark said: "I think what is more likely to happen and should be encouraged is to recognise that there has been effectiveness in calling U.N. action in one case."

That means there is an opportunity for the U.N. to act effectively on other issues. Obviously an urgent question in this region is the question of the legitimate interests of the Palestinians. And certainly discussions have already begun on how one might find ways" for implementing U.N. Security Council Resolution 242.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Clark affirmed the important role the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) could play as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people in order to resolve the Palestine question.

Petra said Mr. Clark expressed concern over statements voicing doubts about the role of the PLO and its representation of the Palestinian people.

On ways to bring about peace to the Gulf region he said that it could be achieved either by deploying observer troops or by deploying forces from countries of the region.

Mr. Clark was received at the airport by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and the Canadian ambassador to Jordan.

U.S. Arab allies form peace force; Iran protests; Britain, France welcome move

DAMASCUS (R) — Eight Arab allies in the U.S.-led alliance against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein agreed Wednesday to form a peacekeeping force to maintain post-war Gulf security.

A statement issued after a two-day meeting in Damascus by the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said the force would mainly consist of Syrian and Egyptian troops.

"The presence of Egyptian and Syrian forces on Saudi territories and other Arab countries in the Gulf represents a nucleus for an Arab force which would guarantee security and peace of the Arab countries in the Gulf region," the statement said.

The thinly populated GCC states Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and United Arab Emirates have vast oil wealth but Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait showed them to be militarily vulnerable.

Egypt and Syria, with population of 55 million and 12 million respectively and huge land armies built up to face their traditional enemy Iraq, participated in the U.S.-led alliance that freed Kuwait last week.

The statement said the new joint force would "constitute a model that would guarantee the integral Arab defence system."

Extra Egyptian and Syrian troops would replace American, British and other Western troops expected to withdraw from the Gulf once a ceasefire is signed with Iraq.

They would balance the two major military powers in the region Iran and Iraq. But the presence of Syrian troops friendly to Iran should make the alliance easier for Tehran to accept, diplomats in the region said.

Iran protests

However, Wednesday criti-

cised the draft Gulf security pact saying it would harm all regional states.

Iran, the strongest Gulf country after Iraq's weakening, says regional security is exclusively the job of Gulf states.

"Drawing up plans which are not comprehensive will in the final analysis hurt the interests of all countries of the region," Tehran Radio said in a commentary soon after the pact was announced.

"It seems the plan formulated in Damascus lacks comprehensiveness and is unlikely to have a better fate than the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council," it said.

Tehran Radio said the draft pact "reflected the line-up of regional governments in the recent war and is not fully in line with the needs for security at present and future."

The pact could not embrace other countries, it said, because of "considerations of the real

designers of the plan and its backers."

Iran says Gulf security arrangements should involve Iran, Iraq and other regional states based on paragraph 8 of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which settled the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

The Gulf states are expected in exchange to shore up the cash-strapped economies of Syria and Egypt.

The so-called Damascus Declaration signed by the eight ministers said time was ripe for an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"The participants believe that the convening of an international peace conference under the sponsorship of the United Nations is a suitable framework to end the Israeli occupation of Arab land and ensure the rights of the Palestinian people."

They agreed on establishing a new Arab order in the post-war

era and stressed respect for the principles of international law, especially those related to the sovereignty and independence of states.

On economic cooperation, the statement said:

"Economic policies will be formed to achieve balanced economic development as a prelude to establishing an Arab economic bloc..."

It did not spell out details.

The ministers expressed support for the Iraqi people in the civil unrest sweeping southern Iraq.

"The countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Syria and Egypt, express their deep regret over the unjust form of suffering to which the Iraqi people are being subjected," the statement said.

(Continued on page 5)

Major secures Britain full share in Kuwait reconstruction

KUWAIT (R) — British Prime Minister John Major won a guarantee from Kuwait's ruling family Wednesday that British firms would get lucrative contracts to help rebuild the country's war-devastated capital.

Major, the first foreign leader to visit Kuwait since its liberation last week from seven months of Iraqi occupation, talked with Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Abdullah Al Sabah and met British forces who took part in the war against the Iraqis.

"The crown prince said British firms would play a full part in the reconstruction of Kuwait, given our old ties," British Ambassador Michael Weston told reporters after the talks.

American firms are expected to obtain up to 70 per cent of contracts in the multi-billion dollar programme to rebuild Kuwait, whose capital lies in blackened ruins and whose oil wells were set ablaze.

Britain, which fielded the second largest force in the U.S.-led coalition that drove out the Iraqis, is bidding for a sizeable share of the balance.

Margaret Thatcher, Major's predecessor as prime minister, played a leading role in helping U.S. President George Bush form the coalition; and Kuwait was a British protectorate until 1961.

Major arrived in Kuwait from Moscow where he had three days

of talks with Soviet leaders. Prevented from landing at Kuwait City airport by billowing black smoke from oil fires, he landed instead at Khafji in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and completed the journey by helicopter.

The British premier went to Kuwait against the advice of some military aides who said law and order in the emirate had not been sufficiently restored.

Crown Prince Saad, Kuwait's prime minister and martial law administrator, received him at the sumptuous Diwan Palace outside the city centre, undamaged during the occupation.

He told Major through an interpreter: "I want to express deep

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Iraq threatened by epidemics; nothing works there — U.N.

By Marian M. Shalhin with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Catastrophic epidemics of cholera, typhoid and meningitis could kill more people in Iraq than the war itself did if basic food supplies, medicines as well as electricity and clean water are not made available to Iraqi people before the weather warms up in the coming weeks, a U.N. agency official said Wednesday.

"The number of deaths that could result from any of these epidemics could greatly outnumber total battle deaths and civilian casualties — we are talking about tens of thousands," Richard Reid, regional director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), said.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Reid said that in light of the continued economic blockade of Iraq and the lack of electricity coupled with the inevitable breakdown of adequate medical infrastructure and services "Iraq is on the edge of what could be a catastrophe."

Water supply in Baghdad has been cut down to less than five per cent of original supply and there are no operational water and sewage treatment plants, according to a UNICEF-World Health Organisation (WHO) report made available to the press.

There appears to be unwillingness by the international

community to maintain sanctions against Iraq, but intentions on their own offer little hope of alleviating the current situation. Asked if UNICEF was willing to make available to concerned NGOs a list of medicines and medical equipment needed, Mr. Reid said the list had been given to the U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee.

UNICEF, as its name implies, relieves the suffering of children in particular and is planning to send badly needed vaccines to Iraq in the next few days.

The agency had sent 24 tonnes of basic medical and health supplies to Iraq via Iran in mid February.

Mr. Reid said that U.N.

agencies would ask for a humanitarian ceasefire in southern Iraq, where hostilities took place in the past week, if necessary to take relief supplies. No such permits had been granted during allied attacks on Iraq during the 42-day war.

The UNICEF director said that he was receiving updates of the current situation in Iraq on a daily basis from two UNICEF officers now based in Baghdad. "Conditions have improved slightly but there is still a serious risk of outbreaks of typhoid, cholera and meningitis," he said.

The part of Iraq which was suffering the most severely from lack of food, medicines and water supplies was prob-

ably the southern Iraqi city of Basra, Mr. Reid added.

He said the closure of schools and cold weather have helped the epidemics from spreading so far. "When the hot weather begins, at the end of the month, the incubation of the diseases will speed up."

The partial breakdown of the medical system in Iraq was attributed by Mr. Reid, among other reasons, to the inability of medical staff to come to work due to lack of gasoline.

UNICEF had asked the U.N. sanctions committee to approve the shipment of diesel fuel and spare parts for generators to pump water and chlorine to purify it, Mr. Reid said, indicating the total dependence of the U.N. agency on the

political branch of its mother organisation.

Mr. Reid and the joint UNICEF-WHO report painted a picture of a city (Baghdad) thrown back in time.

He said people were riding horses through the streets of the capital because there was no petrol and stripping branches from trees in parks to use as firewood.

"Nothing works there, nothing. There's no water in the spigot, nothing happens when you flush the toilet, you can't use your refrigerator, you can't make the car run because there's no gas — nothing," he said.

Low cost rations of rice, flour, sugar, cooking oil and

tea from the Iraqi government provided under half the daily required calories for even small children and had to be supplemented by increasingly expensive food from local markets.

The report said the price of meat had risen to \$36 a kilo — about four days wages for an average urban worker.

Families had not been able to store perishable food because of lack of electricity and infants were being fed orange juice when milk is unavailable, the report said. It said many mothers were unable to breast-feed their children because of stress caused by five weeks of bombardment by the United States and its allies.

Sales of scarce bottled gas for cooking and heating set off near stampedes, it said.

The Iraqi government said this week it would increase rations of infant formula food.

Mr. Reid said Baghdad residents had seemed remarkably resilient through the allied attacks.

"While we were there there was intense bombing for three days — day and night," he said.

"We noticed that children were flying kites, groups of kids were playing football and people were out looking for food — it became clear that after the first few days of bombardment people got down to the business of coping."

Pope urges world community to seek justice for Palestinians

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul said on Wednesday he hoped one day to go to Jerusalem to issue a joint appeal for Middle East peace with Jews and Muslims.

The Pope, ending a Vatican summit on the Gulf war, also said a solution to the Palestinian question was vital to peace in the region and urged the international community to commit itself to seeking justice for the Palestinians.

"I fervently hope that one day circumstances will allow me to travel as a pilgrim to that city unique in the world," the Pope said.

He said he wanted to go to Jerusalem "to repeat from there, together with Jewish, Christian

and Muslim faithful," a peace message he delivered at an inter-religious service in Assisi, Italy, in 1986.

The Pope was speaking at his weekly general audience, where he formally closed a two-day meeting on the war attended by Catholic leaders from the Middle East and the West.

The Vatican has never recognised Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem and its declaration of the holy city as its "united and eternal" capital, key obstacles to diplomatic relations.

The Holy See wants the city, which is sacred to Christians, Muslims and Jews, to be protected by international guarantees.

"It is called upon to be a city of

peace, it cannot continue to be a subject of discord and controversy," the Pope said.

The Pope, who has said in the past Israel has a right to security, said the Palestinian question had to be resolved.

"The injustice of which the Palestinian people has been a victim calls for a commitment by all, in particular those responsible for nations and the international community."

"Only with an intense search for an immediate beginning of a solution can that people be finally recognised in its dignity," he said.

The Pope said the international community had perhaps forgotten other regional problems including Cyprus and the Kurdish question.

Soviet Jews seek greener pastures out of Israel

By Miriam Jordan Renter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

An Israeli cabinet minister expressed concern on Tuesday that newly arrived Soviet Jews were seeking greener pastures elsewhere and said the trickle could become a flood.

"A number of law offices have opened in Tel Aviv and Haifa to encourage emigration of Soviet immigrants from Israel to Germany, Canada and Australia," Immigration Minister Rabbi Yitzhak Peretz said.

Israel has relied on Jewish immigration for growth since its establishment, and the expected arrival of one million Soviet Jews in coming years would swell its 4.8 million population by a fifth.

But limited job opportunities and the high cost of living are dissuading some newcomers from staying.

"This is alarming," Peretz told army radio. He said it was hard to keep track, but at least 500 Soviet Jews had left for Germany, Canada, Australia and South Africa in 1990.

Canadian and Australian embassy officials in Tel Aviv said they had received some inquiries from Soviet immigrants, but had not noted a substantial increase in immigration applications.

"Every phenomenon starts with small numbers and then may spread. They (the lawyers) promise to arrange documents and work in these countries," said Peretz.

About 185,000 Soviet Jews arrived in Israel last year in a wave Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir called a blessing.

The exodus was made possible by Kremlin reforms but the flood into Israel was largely a result of entry restrictions imposed by the United States, where the vast majority of Soviet Jews have moved since the 1970s.

Israel has opposed any U.S. move to increase quotas for Soviet Jews.

Israeli officials fear projections of 300,000 Soviet arrivals this year will not be realised as news of economic difficulties in Israel spreads to the Soviet Union. January and February were already weak months for immigration due to the Gulf war.

Many highly-educated Soviet Jews have difficulty finding jobs in Israel, and rising housing costs coupled with cuts in state subsidies have increased their woes.

The average aid package for a family of three has fallen from a \$10,500 grant in March 1990 to \$6,900 this year, with a third of the total now awarded as a loan.

Housing costs in Israel rose 31.6 per cent in 1990, and the consumer price index rose 17.6 per cent in the same period. "Housing prices keep rising, but their aid package keeps shrinking," said Shimon Limor, a real estate agent in the northern Israeli town of Kiryat Yam who services immigrants.

Newcomers to Israel are entitled to a \$38,000 state mortgage. An average two-bedroom flat costs \$65,000.

"I feel more like a counsellor than a real estate agent. These people break out in tears when they realise they can't pay \$500 a month to rent a two-bedroom apartment," he told Reuters.

"I end up suggesting two families share one apartment." It brings back memories of life in the Soviet Union.

Soviet envoy in Iran to discuss Iraq unrest, Gulf security

NICOSIA (R) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Belongov arrived in Tehran on Wednesday to seek Iran's views on unrest in Iraq and spell out Moscow's stance on post-war security in the Gulf.

Belongov told the national Iranian News Agency IRNA he wanted to find out how Iran gauged the civil unrest against Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, formerly a major Soviet ally in the Middle East.

Iraq sent its deputy prime minister, Saadoun Hammadi, on a surprise mission to Iran on Tuesday.

"The military stage has now come to an end and the political phase has started," said Belongov, referring to Iraq's defeat and the capture of Kuwait by U.S.-led allies last week.

"The United Nations should take all necessary measures to prevent any repetition of similar

cases," he added.

Moscow and Iran failed in a last-ditch diplomatic effort to secure an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Belongov was one of the Kremlin envoys sent to the Middle East by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev before war broke out on Jan. 17.

The rout of Iraq in the six-week war alarmed Moscow, which had for decades been Baghdad's main armoured and instilled its brand of military tactics into Iraq's troops.

Belongov said it was impossible to give any accurate assessment of the post-war turmoil in Iraq.

"There is an uprising against Saddam's government in some parts of the country but its scale, incentives as well as the role of the people are vague to us."

There have been reports of widespread unrest in the Shi'ite Muslim populated southern Iraq

and the Kurdish north since the U.S. allies declared a ceasefire last Thursday.

U.S. intelligence reports say Iraq's elite Republican Guard units are now gaining the upper hand against rebels who initially claimed to have captured several Iraqi cities.

Iran, which stayed neutral in the war against its former enemy, has influence among Iraq's majority Shi'ite Muslims. But does not want to be seen as fuelling the unrest which could unleash a flood of refugees across its borders.

Tehran is equally determined not to portray the riots against Saddam's predominantly Sunni Muslim government as a Shi'ite-Sunni dispute. This is in variance with Iran's policy of preaching the unity of Muslim's rival sects.

Belongov said Iran, with the longest coasts in the Gulf, should play a major role in any regional

security. "We think that the main role in the future of the Gulf should be played by the regional countries themselves without any foreign intervention."

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmoud Vaezi, who met Belongov at Tehran airport, said: "Matters will be discussed regarding the situation in Iraq, the preservation of its territorial integrity, the problem of security in the region, and the presence of foreign forces in the region, who in our view should leave."

"In these conditions, Iran and the Soviet Union are conducting the first contacts after the cessation of the war, and these contacts are allowing us to exchange opinions on what we could do jointly to return peace and calm to the region on a long-term basis," he told the Soviet news agency TASS.

Journalists reported in Iraqi 'rebels' custody

GENEVA (R) — An Iraqi opposition group said on Wednesday it had given refuge to 21 foreign journalists reported missing in southern Iraq.

The supreme council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, in a statement issued in Geneva, said some of the reporters were wounded when they were caught in an exchange of fire between forces loyal to president Saddam Hussein and "resistance fighters."

But they were now well and all resume their work when conditions were appropriate, the statement said.

In Riyadh, the U.S. military said Wednesday it had failed to trace 25 journalists who went missing in southern Iraq.

"We know absolutely nothing."

It's not for want of looking. We know nothing," a U.S. army officer told reporters.

The journalists left Kuwait last Sunday, heading for the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

The Pentagon said the journalists apparently skirted a U.S. military checkpoint in occupied Iraqi territory.

The 25 workers for organisations based in the United States, Britain, France, Italy and Brazil.

A correspondent for the French Radio station France-Info said a major of Iraq's Republican Guard told him he was holding a group of French journalists and would exchange them for Iraqis captured by allied forces.

Alain Menargues said the major, in charge of the first Iraqi

checkpoint on the road from Kuwait city to Basra, declined to say how many journalists he was holding.

The French foreign ministry listed 15 French journalists among those missing.

A cameraman for the international television news agency Vis-News said a Republican Guard major told him at a roadblock that about 10 western journalists had been "captured" and were being held by the guard in Basra.

The cameraman told Reuters on returning to Kuwait city that the major said the newsmen were safe.

The missing journalists include two Reuters photographers, Paris-based Frenchman Philippe Wojazer, and American Santiago Lyon, based in Mexico City.

Scud missiles reported headed for Syria

ROME (AP) — A cargo ship is sailing to Syria with a consignment of Scud missiles, an Italian newspaper said Tuesday.

Corriere Della Sera said the missiles were bought in North Korea and are apparently more advanced than those used by Iraq in the Gulf war.

The report, quoting unidentified Lebanese sources, was released in advance of publication in Wednesday's editions.

Built on order for Syria, the missiles have a range of 600 kilometres and can carry chemi-

cal and bacteriological weapons, the report said.

"While Iraq was forced to reduce the weight of its warheads from 1,000 kilograms to 250 kilograms in order to increase the range, the Korean-made missiles require no such adjustments, the paper said.

"Damascus will have the ability of deploying its Scuds in northern regions, making a pre-emptive raid by Israeli planes very difficult," the report said.

Corriere Della Sera said the

missiles are being transported aboard the ship "Al Yamouk," flying the Syrian flag. The vessel is sailing in the Mediterranean towards the Syrian port of Latakia, it said.

The ship was forced to sail around Africa in order to avoid going through the Suez Canal where coalition naval forces are still enforcing the embargo against Iraq, the paper said.

Since leaving North Korea, the vessel has refuelled in Singapore, Madagascar and Morocco, the report said.

Mines take their toll on Kuwaitis

KUWAIT CITY (AP) — It was one day after Iraqi forces left the city, and the young resistance fighter was taking some of his weapons to a police station.

He stepped on what looked like an innocent matchbox. It exploded, blasting his left leg off at the knee and tearing dime-sized chunks of flesh from his chest and left arm.

For Ahmed Al Wabbadan, 18, it was a deadly farewell gift from his enemies of seven months.

But it could have been worse. French special forces engineers found long rows of more powerful mines along miles of beachfront, planted by the Iraqis for an expected allied amphibious invasion that never came.

All were anti-personnel mines, chief Sgt. Christian Mundage said, both the ordinary kind and Italian-made "bouncing betties" that when stepped on shoot up to waist height and explode.

It's slow work finding them, he said, and mine detectors don't always work. It's very gently probe for them.

"The best way is the bayonet," said the short, wiry paratrooper. "It is very long work, but very necessary."

Larger, heavier anti-tank mines in other areas posed another nasty problem. It was possible some had booby traps beneath them that would explode when the mine was lifted.

Mondage and his men had been at it four days, part of U.S., British and French army efforts to clear this city of the lethal leftovers of war — mines, weapons and ammunition from Iraq as well as unexploded allies munitions.

There were no official estimates of how much there was. Tons would be a safe guess. One U.S. army colonel on Sunday morbidly referred to it as a veritable "candy store" of ordnance.

Mondage's working party alone had filled a medium-sized truck with about 30 rocket-propelled grenades, an equal number of mortar shells, and two boxes of small and heavy-caliber ammunition left by the withdrawing Iraqis.

Finding, collecting and disposing of all this is a large problem throughout the city, a senior U.S. army civil affairs officer told reporters Tuesday.

He said leaflets have been spread around the city warning

residents not to touch munitions they find and to tell authorities.

Every day, he said, he gets reports of weapons found, including abandoned anti-aircraft guns with live rounds still in their breaches.

"The other day we had some Kuwaiti children who were climbing on an (Iraqi) tank," he said. He and his men warned the children away, and looked inside the tank and another one nearby. "Both of the tanks had their full basic load of ammunition and each had a round in the breach," he said.

Estimates of how many civilian casualties have been caused by weaponry laying about the city are hard to come by.

The army civil affairs officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he knew of two children injured — had badly, he didn't say — when they picked up a mine that exploded.

But doctors at one of the city's major medical facilities, Mubarak Hospital, reported 20 casualties in that hospital alone since the Iraqis fled on Feb. 25.

One had died. Al Wabbadan, the young resistance fighter, was among the 19 who survived.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak urges Somali factions to unite

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak is urging Somalia's warring factions to get together to end bloodletting in their country save it from disintegration. An appeal by Mubarak, distributed Wednesday by the Foreign Ministry, sought to resurrect an Egyptian effort to reconcile disparate political factions in the war-torn East African land. "I call on the various Somali factions to unify their ranks and coordinate their positions to ensure a better future for Somalia far from the dangers threatening the safety of its land," the statement said. Hinting at a willingness to mediate, Mubarak said: "Egypt considers that preserving the unity of Somalia represents a goal that should be above any other consideration. Egypt opens its arms to the Somali brothers to agree on a unified position to serve this goal." Mubarak's government tried to convene Somali peace talks in Cairo last December among then-President Mohammed Siad Barre and his opponents. Rebel groups refused to attend while Siad Barre ruled, and full-scale fighting broke out shortly afterward. The rebel united Somali congress ousted Siad Barre on Jan. 26 after more than a month of fighting that left thousands dead and the capital Mogadishu devastated. Three days later, Ali Mahdi Mohamed, the interim president, called a conference of all factions on Feb. 28 to form a provisional government pending free, democratic elections. But the largest and oldest rebel group, the Somali National Movement, refused to attend because it was not represented in plans for the interim government. At Mahdi Mohamed's suggestion, the conference was rescheduled for March 14, still without guarantees of full factional participation.

Germany willing to help clear Gulf mines

BONN, Germany (AP) — Germany is willing to send special ships to the Gulf to help clear that waterway of floating Iraqi mines, a government official said Wednesday. Germany is trying to repair its international image, which took a beating because of the way Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government responded to the Gulf war. Kohl sent money to the U.S.-led coalition to help with war costs but kept German troops out of the crisis, citing constitutional

restraints. A government official said the United States had suggested Germany send some mine-sweepers, currently sailing in the Mediterranean, to the Gulf. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Germany was "in principle prepared" to meet such a request. Germany's mine-sweepers are considered among the best in the world. They are outfitted with special remote-controlled equipment, called the "sea hound" system, for safely detonating magnetic or acoustic mines. With hostilities over in the Gulf, the government is once again talking about changing the constitution to allow the deployment of German troops outside NATO areas. Kohl and his political rivals had agreed not to discuss that possibility until the war was over, fearing a negative reaction from a populace with strong pacifist inclinations. Kohl's government has said German troops should be allowed to take part in U.N. peacekeeping missions. Volker Ruehe, general secretary of the governing Christian Democrats, has gone a step further. Ruehe on Tuesday suggested a West European rapid deployment force be created to protect European Community interests, and that German troops be included.

Ankara offers to help solve the Afghan problem

KABUL (R) — Turkey has offered to help the Afghan government of President Najibullah and his guerrilla opponents find a solution to their 12-year conflict, Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut said Tuesday. "Turkey is ready to make every effort to bring a peaceful solution to the Afghan problem," Yildirim said in a message read at celebrations held in Kabul to mark the 70th anniversary of an Afghan-Turkish friendship treaty. "I would like to express our wish for the establishment of a broad-based government in Afghanistan, including all segments of the Afghan society through democratic procedures acceptable to the people of Afghanistan," the message said. The offer of help also coincided with the first anniversary of a failed coup, led by then Defence Minister General Shah Nawaz Tanai, which came close to killing Najibullah and overthrowing his pro-Soviet government. Relations between Afghanistan and Turkey have improved in recent months. Last November, Najibullah stopped off in Ankara on his way to Switzerland for talks with Afghan opposition representatives.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Sunrise (Fajr)
05:53 Sunrise (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:47 Dhuhr
15:06 Asr
17:41 Maghreb
18:57 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church 571114
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

WEATHER

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775251
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771351
Armenian International Church Tel. 627981, 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817 and 654932

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain in the eastern areas of the Kingdom. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./max. temp. Amman 3 / 10

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Amman 8, Aqaba 17. Humidity readings: Amman 75 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Walid Smadi 683266
Dr. Fakhri Abu Tayeh 885880
Dr. Majid Abu Saeed 881635
Dr. Khalil Al Jabali 740740
Piras pharmacy 661912

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate

EMERGENCIES

Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairoud pharmacy 626372
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Staines pharmacy 637660

IRBID:

Dr. Lutfi Al Shalabi (—)
Al Sharaa pharmacy (275825)

ZARQA:

Dr. Akram Haddad (—)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

IRBID:

Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Rigoud Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 856390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 603800
Price Complaints 661776
Water and Sewerage

AMMAN:

Complaints 877467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 633101
Abdel Telephone Repairs 661101

IRBID:

Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815613
Electric Power 636381
Company 603800
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 64281/6
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn. 64244/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafnas, J. Amman 66171/4
Palestine, Samadani 66171/4
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 550 / 480

MARKET PRICES

Al-Masheer Hospital 66722/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mahajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 77511/26
Army, Marks 89161/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarga National Hospital (09)983323
Baqara (09)983323
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
In Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Banana 500 / 450
Banana (Mukhammar) 450 / 400
Beans 700 / 600
Cabbage 100 / 60
Carrot 180 / 120
Cauliflower 220 / 160
Cucumbers (large) 220 / 180
Cucumbers (small) 400 / 380
Dates 300 / 400
Eggplant 160 / 120
Garlic 1350 / 1200
Grapefruit 240 / 180
Lemon 230 / 180
Marrow (large) 160 / 120
Marrow (small) 320 / 260
Onion (dry) 280 / 220
Onion (green) 170 / 120
Orange 680 / 280
Pepper (hot) 440 / 380
Pepper (sweet) 300 / 150
Potato 220 / 180
Radish 100 / 50
Sage 400 / 300
Spinach 120 / 80
Tomatoes 250 / 180

كلنا من الوطن

UNRWA has new commissioner-general

AMMAN (J.T.) — Mr. Ilter Turkmen of Turkey has taken over as Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

He replaces Mr. Giorgio Giacomelli of Italy, who on February 28 completed nearly five and a half years' service as UNRWA's commissioner-general. Mr. Giacomelli has been appointed director of the UN International Drug Control Programme.

Mr. Turkmen, 63, comes to UNRWA from Paris, where he has served as Turkey's ambassador to France since 1988. Before that, he served two terms as Turkey's permanent representative to the UN in New York (1985-88 and 1975-78) and one term (1983-85) as the Turkish representative to the UN office at Geneva. From 1980-83, Mr.

Turkmen served as foreign minister of Turkey. He has also been ambassador to the Soviet Union and Greece and from 1979-80 served as special representative of the U.N. Secretary-General in Thailand, dealing with humanitarian issues.

Mr. Turkmen is taking up residence in Vienna, where UNRWA has the main unit of its headquarters. The agency also has a headquarters branch in Amman, Jordan.

As commissioner-general of UNRWA, Mr. Turkmen heads the largest UN agency in terms of staff. UNRWA's 18,500 employees, mainly Palestinian teachers and health workers, provide education, health, relief and social services to more than 2.4 million registered Palestine refugees living in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

EC grants emergency aid to Iraq and Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Commission in Brussels has decided on March 6, 1991 to allocate European Currency Unit (ECU) 3 million (\$4 million) to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) for the purchase and provision of 160 tonnes of products (chlorine, etc.) for water purification and filtration in Iraq. The amount will also cover the purchase of spare parts and generators used in water treatment plants, medicines, medical technicians, and the transport of medical personnel and medicines provided by Algeria and Morocco.

Earlier, on February 28, 1991, the commission had allocated ECU 560,000 (\$755,000) to the ICRC to finance a mobile water treatment station for hospitals

and clinics in Baghdad. The amount included transport costs and provision of technicians.

The above emergency aid conforms to U.N. Security Council Resolution 661, and both decisions have been approved by the Sanctions Committee. All future supplementary aid is subject to the committee's approval.

The commission also decided on March 6, 1991 to grant ECU 340,000 (\$460,000) to the Kuwait Red Crescent, in association with the Netherlands Red Cross and Bahrain Red Crescent. The funds will be used to purchase 100 tonnes of baby food, and the consignment will be dispatched via Bahrain on March 7, 1991.

The commission shall meet additional requests for emergency aid if wanted.

Study evaluates campaign for combating diarrhoea

AMMAN — A symposium was held at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Wednesday to evaluate the results of a study conducted last year about means of combating diarrhoea and raising immunisation coverage.

The study, conducted by the ministry in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Department of Statistics, was reviewed and several aspects dealing with common diseases responsible for infant mortality in Jordan were discussed.

Addressing the opening session, Health Minister Adnan Jaljoul said that the results were of paramount importance since they would be instrumental in guiding the country's future medical plans.

The outcome of this important study will reflect the scientific standard followed in Jordan in the course of providing immunisation to children, and means of raising the health standard in Jordan.

According to the study, which covered children under five years

of age, 1.23 per thousand children were affected by diarrhoea, compared to four per thousand children in neighbouring countries.

According to Health Ministry officials, the mortality rate among infants and children in Jordan is considered to be the lowest in third world countries.

Apart from the minister, several specialists addressed the opening session.

One of the speakers was a representative of UNICEF in Jordan. He outlined the role this world organisation was assuming to counter disease, in general, and the campaigns it carries out in the Arab World, in particular.

He also paid tribute to the role played by the Health Ministry in the immunisation programme benefiting various urban and rural communities.

Among the topics taken up at the meeting were a national strategy to eliminate polio and tetanus, and the outcome of the study concerning the fight against diarrhoea.

Major

(Continued from page 1)

thanks to the British people, government and armed forces for their help in liberating our country."

The British leader said his talks with Sheikh Saad covered the difficulties facing Kuwait and its future security, however he ruled out any permanent British military presence in the region.

"There will be no British standing army in the Gulf," he said. "I don't think that will happen."

Weston said the talks also covered the internal situation in Kuwait, where the national parliament was dissolved in 1986 and has not met since.

"The crown prince told the prime minister that Kuwait will continue to move towards democracy," he said.

Sheikh Saad also raised the situation of Palestinians in Kuwait, who have complained since the liberation of being mistreated.

Weston said Sheikh Saad assured Major that "all communities in Kuwait will be treated in accordance with the law."

Major visited the 4th and 7th British Armoured Brigades and a British artillery group who took part in the ground war against the Iraqi army last week.

Officers and men at the 4th Brigade showed him captured Iraqi tanks and weapons and presented him with a souvenir Soviet-made AK-47 automatic rifle.

Major met 30 Britons at the embassy who had remained in Kuwait during the occupation,

PoWs

(Continued from page 1)

Britain, officials said.

The allied prisoners, dressed in yellow jumpsuits with PW written on the back, left a downtown Baghdad hotel on a bus that headed for the airport just after 12:30 p.m. (0930 GMT) Wednesday.

Hyun Nabry, an air force doctor, said once they leave, they will spend three or four days aboard the navy hospital ship Mercy before returning to the United States.

The freed PoWs appeared to be in relatively good physical condition.

The allies had demanded the release of all prisoners as a condition for a permanent ceasefire, and Iraq on Sunday agreed to comply.

Six Americans, three Britons and an Italian were freed Monday. Doctors who accompanied the Americans to the Mercy, anchored off Bahrain, said they were in good physical and mental condition and had been treated well.

Twenty-eight Americans and one Saudi remain missing in action and unaccounted for. Maj. Gen. Martin Brandtner, deputy director of operations for the joint chiefs of staff, said in Washington Tuesday that there was no reason to question Iraq's statement that it held no more allied prisoners.

Committee formed to collect aid for Iraq

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — More than 400 groups and committees that have been active in Jordan raising donations and contributions for the Iraqi people have now merged to form the "Jordanian Coordination Committee for Supporting Iraq" (JCOSI) which will take charge of all programmes to collect financial and in-kind donations, according to an announcement here by Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

"GUVS, along with the Arab Emergency Health Committee and Islamic groups, is included in the merger which will continue efforts, under a unified management, to raise funds and collect contributions to help the people of Iraq in the wake of the Gulf war," said Dr. Khatib at a press conference.

"The Iraqi leadership and people highly value the Jordanian stand, and a message sent to GUVS by the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan voiced Iraq's gratitude to Jordan for helping the Iraqi people to cope with the difficult conditions resulting from the allied bombardment of Iraqi civilian targets," said Dr. Khatib.

Dr. Khatib called on all 400 groups and committees that have been active in Jordan raising donations and contributions for the Iraqi people have now merged to form the "Jordanian Coordination Committee for Supporting Iraq" (JCOSI) which will take charge of all programmes to collect financial and in-kind donations, according to an announcement here by Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib, president of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

groups to pursue their efforts, and said that the Iraqi Red Crescent Society and the Iraqi Save the Children Society were authorised to receive and distribute the contributions in Iraq.

He said that the newly-formed committee would initiate contacts with Arab and international organisations to explain the difficult conditions under which the Iraqi people are living as a result of the continued economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

Addressing the press conference, a representative of the Jordanian women groups said that women societies in Jordan had embarked on a campaign to collect some 5,000 tonnes of milk and other basic food supplies for the Iraqi children. Emily Naffas said that so far 2,000 tonnes of milk had been collected, and the efforts would continue.

Dr. Fathi Abu 'Arja, who represented the Arab Emergency Health Committee formed by the Arab Doctors Union, told the meeting that collecting contributions was a national duty.

Other speakers called on the Jordanian people to contribute generously to this noble cause and to support the committee's activities.

The latest shipment of food and medical supplies to go to Iraq left Amman Tuesday.

Dr. Khatib called on all 400

On eve of International Women's Day

Queen Noor calls on Jordanian women to join hands for future

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan, along with other Arab and foreign nations, observes International Women's Day Saturday, March 8. On the eve of the anniversary Her Majesty Queen Noor made the following statement:

We celebrate International Women's Day this year at a pivotal moment in the contemporary history of Jordan and the Arab World, following seven months of confrontation, environmental degradation, warfare destruction and human suffering. Though the military operations in the Gulf are behind us, the entire region now deals with its legacy of individual suffering, family trauma and national regression.

Rarely in our modern history has Jordan seen its men, women and children respond so quickly, generously and energetically to the needs of others — whether the people of Iraq, third country nationals evacuated from the crisis zone and transiting through Jordan on their return journeys home, or Jordanians whose incomes were severely cut or totally eliminated due to the economic impact of the crisis and the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

Our women rose to the challenge from the very first days of



ity and wastefulness of war, and of the urgency and humanity of peace based on justice.

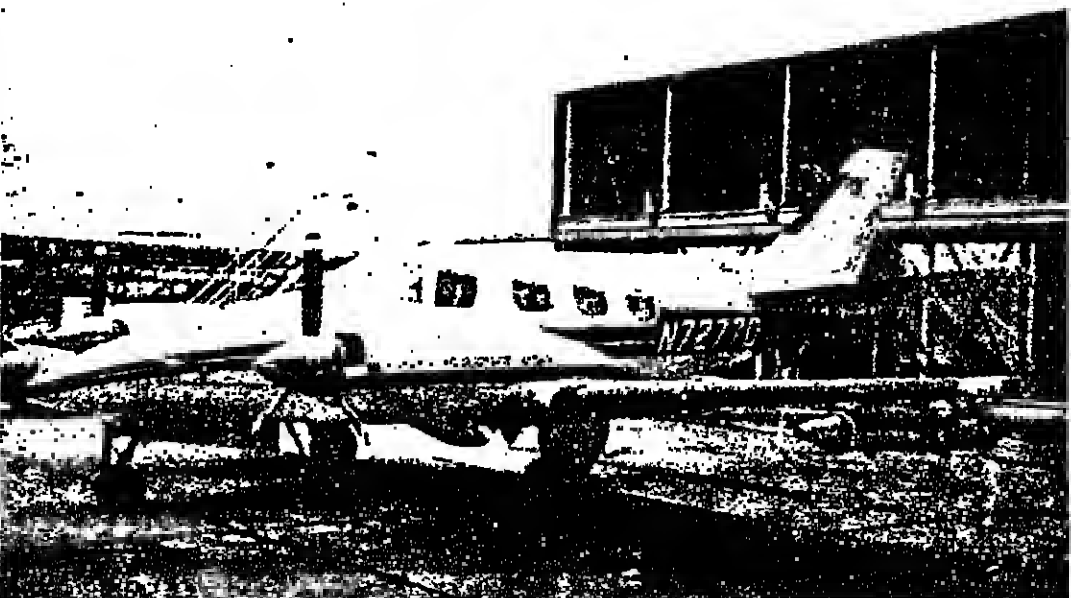
Now, in the wake of one of the worst episodes of destruction and discord to afflict the Arab Nation this century, to embark on a new era that must see reconciliation and cooperation, replace tension and strife. This era will once again call on the finest qualities of our men and women — hard work, rational planning, discipline, commitment, sharing and a sense of community spirit.

Women, in particular, will be challenged to tap their deepest reservoirs of strength and love in order to provide the sense of purpose and identity that is vital for normal home and family life during a period of lingering tension and economic uncertainty. Stable family life in a secure, caring environment is an imperative building block of coherent and sustained national progress. This is an area where all women, along with other family members, can play a strong role. Those women who also work outside the home have an important contribution to make to Arab economic and social development, whether they do so through professional endeavours, employ-

ment or participation in charitable and voluntary work.

We are guided by His Majesty King Hussein's call to put behind us contentious issues which divide our Arab Nation, and instead to focus on the twin challenges of building our countries and giving life and meaning to our greater nation.

We stand on the threshold of a potentially great new age in the Arab World, in which dialogue, reason and justice prevail over inequity, confrontation and fear. To make this new age a reality, though, we must rid ourselves of the constraints and the painful memories of the past, and respond to the opportunity to realise the promise of a better and more honourable future for our children. Most of all, this is the moment to intensify our efforts for justice and peace for all in this world. I am confident that the women of Jordan, having responded with distinction to the regional emergency of the last seven months, will join hands with like-minded women throughout the world to do their part in this noble global endeavour in the months and years to come.



The Twin-engine Beechcraft used for cloud seeding (Department of Meteorology photo)

Cloud seeding helps to bring in more rain

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — For the third year running the Department of Meteorology is employing a specially equipped plane to help increase the amount of rain fall in Jordan and to date the plane has made 23 flying hours carrying out its missions, since December 1990, according to a department official Wednesday.

He said that special chemicals are scattered by the plane. The plane's work is complemented by ground generators located at a number of stations in the country. The process is called cloud seeding and it takes advantage of the amount of water in the clouds to turn it into precipitation, according to the department official. The chemical used is silver iodide and is scattered in the form of particles.

"Sufficient humidity should be

in the atmosphere and the temperature should not exceed 15 degrees centigrade for the process to take place," the official said.

According to the official, the ground generators are located at Ajloun, Rabbah, Tafleh, Shobak and Deir Alla covering most areas.

The specially equipped plane, bought at the cost of \$500,000 is flown by Arab Wings pilots for nearly 70 hours every season, under a contract reached with the department. Under the agreement the department pays JD 54,000 each season to the Arab Wings for supplying the pilot to fly the plane, conduct maintenance and supply the fuel, the official, Inaam Tabboub, said in his statement to the Jordan Times.

He said that due to the delay in rainfall this winter season the plane was used towards the end of December and in February and

March. The plane was bought from the American-based firm Weather Modification Inc (WMI).

Department officials said that rain fell in almost all parts of Jordan over the past two days, but the weather was expected to improve Thursday and Friday. "The temperatures will rise to nearly 10 degrees centigrade Thursday, up from eight Wednesday. But, according to the department, temperature will drop at night to around two degrees centigrade."

Some of the high regions of Jordan have received snow over the past two days and, according to the Public Security Department, the following roads were closed Wednesday afternoon: Shobak — Wadi Musa, Taibeh — Wadi Musa, and Ras Al Naqab Eel. They were blocked by snow and impassable.

Jordan, S. Korea hold talks on boosting trade, economic ties

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-member South Korean delegation arrived in Amman Wednesday on a two-day visit and talks with government officials and businesses on boosting South Korean-Jordanian trade and economic ties.

According to the South Korean Embassy here, the delegation members, who are in the course of a tour in the region, plan to hold meetings Thursday with Foreign Ministry officials and to discuss economic and trade links at a meeting with Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah.

The delegation will hold talks with the managements at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and the Arab Potash Company (APC) to discuss the prospect of increasing the volume of South Korea's imports of Jordanian phosphate and potash, the embassy official said. The delegation members, who group politicians and economists,

will also tour several Jordanian businesses.

Jordan's overall phosphate exports amounted to 4.9 million tonnes last year compared to 6.5 million in 1989, mainly due to uncertainty and confusion that prevailed in Eastern European markets following political changes there in the past year, according to JPMC Director General Wasef Azar.

Azar expects to sell 6.5 million tonnes of phosphate in addition to other amounts of di-ammonia phosphate, aluminium fluoride and phosphoric acid during 1991.

APC last year sold more than a million tonnes of potash, but its board of directors has recently given the go ahead for the implementation of an expansion project to boost the company's annual production to 1.8 million tonnes by the end of 1993.

Most of Jordan's fertiliser, potash and phosphate exports go

to Asian countries, including South Korea, with India being the main importer.

The embassy official could not give specific details about the amounts of potash and phosphate to be imported for the South Korean markets.

Over the past months South Korea made a donation of \$15 million in grants and soft loans to Jordan to help it overcome part of the consequences of the Gulf crisis and cope with the hundreds of thousands of evacuees flooding the country.

Earlier Wednesday, the minister of planning met with South Korea's ambassador here, Tae Jin Park, to discuss the delegation's visit and review economic and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Abdullah explained to the ambassador the heavy losses to the national economy as a result of the Gulf crisis.



Jordanian Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark Wednesday discuss prospects of peace in the region (Petra photo)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Queen to open women's club

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will open Saturday, March 9, the Business and Professional Women Club premises and three of its offices. The club's offices are: a consulting office for women, one for little businesses and an information and documentation centre for women's studies.

Jordan, Lebanon discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi received Wednesday Lebanese ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Ibrahim. Dughmi and Ibrahim discussed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Lebanon in various fields, particularly labour-related fields.

House holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament held a meeting Wednesday under the chairmanship of House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the ministers. The House heard replies by Minister of Health Adnan Al Jaljoul, to questions by deputies on the work of doctors at the Health Ministry's departments and centres and the shortage in medical services in Al-Raseifa and Awajan areas. The House heard proposals by several deputies and a reply by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Muhammad Al Zaban to a question by Deputy Awni Al Bashir on the administrative organisation of Zai area in

Al Balqa governorate. The House then discussed an amendment to the People's Army law and approved it.

House's committees to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee will meet Sunday at 10 a.m. The committee is scheduled to discuss the pension fund's temporary law of 1976 and an amendment to the banks' temporary law of 1975. The House's Legal Committee will also meet next Sunday at 10 a.m. to discuss two amended temporary laws.

Gulf Peace Team calls for vigil

AMMAN (J.T.) — Members of the Gulf Peace Team who have been on a water only fast since March 1, calling for an end to sanctions against foodstuffs going into Iraq and expressing sorrow over the war's toll on human life, invite all concerned people to join them on Thursday, March 7, at the daily Gulf Peace Team vigil, opposite the United Nations Building, to sign a petition demanding an end to the food sanctions. The vigil occurs between 12:00 and 12:30.

Charity bazaar to benefit Iraqi children

AMMAN (J.T.) — A charity bazaar will be held Friday at the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) premises. On display at the bazaar will be home-made food and national products. Proceeds from the bazaar will benefit the Iraqi children.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY OF WATER AND IRRIGATION WATER AUTHORITY INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) TENDER NO. 10/91/SP SUPPLY OF BLACK STEEL PIPES

1. The Water Authority of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank in various currencies towards the cost of the water and sewerage project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the purchase of 30 km 8" and 12 km 12" black steel pipes.
2. The Water Authority now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of black steel pipes.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority, Shmeisani, P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan. Telephone 680100 Telex 22439 JO Fax. 679143.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any eligible bidder on submission of a written application to the above address and the payment of non-refundable fee of JD 200.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount(s) specified in the conditions of contract and must be delivered to the above office not later than 1200 hours, Jordan local time, on Tuesday 09/04/1991.

Eng. Mutazz Belbelsi
Secretary-General
Water Authority

Jordan Times

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Odd not to reconsider, even if price is higher

THE ALTERNATE use of vehicles on odd and even number basis was introduced in the first place when the flow of crude oil to Jordan was interrupted by the Gulf war. There was no other reason for that policy, at least as far as the public is concerned. Now that the war has ended in the Gulf and that chances are small that it will be ignited again, the government is invited to reconsider this emergency decision.

The country is obviously returning to normalcy in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis and that in turn would imply the return to normal policies with regard to many facets of life in it. The sooner the government acts accordingly the clearer would be the message to the people that their country is on the road to recovery. Such positive signs would naturally fortify the confidence of Jordanians in all matters including business opportunities and commerce with the outside world. This is therefore no time for timid economic policies that are short-sighted or self-defeating. Rather, time is ripe for bold policies to regenerate the wheels of industry and productivity in the country.

If on the other hand the government seeks simply to curtail the use of energy, to save on hard currencies there must be fairer methods than the one deployed in a state of emergency. The government may, for example consider hiking the price of fuel a few percentage points as a leverage to cut down on its consumption. It may even go to the extreme of issuing coupons for this purpose. But as things are now, many one-vehicle families are frankly being discriminated against in favour of the rich who own more than one or even two cars, thus beating the odds of ending up cars.

What exacerbates the problem for Jordanians is the lack of adequate public transportation system in the country. Many families have been forced to improvise at high cost and with considerable inconvenience. They took the government's policy about the use of cars in strides when the war was raging in the Gulf. Now we are entering a new threshold that requires every confidence-building measures that the Jordanian authorities can come up with. There is therefore every reason to reconsider the existing policy regarding the use of vehicles and the sooner the government can act on this matter the better. Otherwise the government would risk giving the people of Jordan the wrong signal about where the country is heading, exactly at a time when Jordanians are ready to move forward and turn a new page in their development process.



ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Commenting on a tour of the Middle East by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Al Rai Arabic daily said Wednesday that the American official should realise that the region is like an explosive powder keg capable of blowing up any minute, especially in the wake of the Gulf crisis and the frustration and anger created in the hearts of the Arab masses against the United States. The paper said that the Arabs realise that the United States is pursuing efforts to impose hegemony on them, and are willing to embark on a series of steps culminating in popular revolutions and a war of liberation to throw off the new imperialist rule being consolidated with the help of local rulers. The paper reminded its readers that the Gulf war was waged by Washington as a means to destroy Iraq's military power and to pave the ground for its domination of the whole Arab region. The paper said that Baker's visit to the area is not expected to result in Washington's recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, but is rather carried out at this juncture to emphasise Washington's total commitment to Israel's policies and those of Zionism.

Al Ihassour daily said that Jordan and the other Arab countries are expecting a constructive step on the part of the European nations towards settling the long standing Arab-Israeli dispute. The paper said that the European visitors to the region for discussions with the Arab and Israeli leaders about the prospects of peace prove that the European Community is concerned with finding a lasting settlement, thus putting into action words and statements issued by western European leaders in the wake of the Gulf war. Having committed themselves to implementing the international legitimacy on equal footing, the Europeans find that it is their duty to back their words by deeds and in a manner that would take into consideration the interests of all parties to the conflict. We look with deep interest to these efforts which come at a time when the Arabs are full of expectations with regard to the next moves in the region. Now that the war in the Gulf is over and the climate is most opportune for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper stressed. It expressed belief that the European Community can and must take speedy action in this concern and can prove that it is an active partner in the peace making process.

Jordan and Gulf war: History will be the judge

By George Hawatmeh

THE SHOCK of what has happened in the Gulf war has by and large fissured public opinion in Jordan: some of us still do not believe that Iraq was beaten in the battlefield, that the final word has not been heard from President Saddam Hussein and what remains of his military capabilities; others are surprised at the swiftness with which Kuwait was retaken, with such a small number of casualties on the coalition side; and those who think that the result has to be seen as a victory for Iraq, since this relatively small, Third World country which had been starved and ostracised for half a year did in fact hold out against the onslaught of a 30-state alliance whose military machine was once prepared to fight the Warsaw Pact and global Communism.

There are Jordanians who believe that Saddam bungled it and that he should leave the scene, making it possible for the Iraqis to reconstruct and rebuild their country away from greater allied political and economic pressure and continued threats and intimidation by the outside world. But this is not the view of either the government or the majority of people in the Kingdom, who maintain that this is no time for self-flagellation and volte-faces and furnishing opportunities to the enemies of

President Saddam and Iraq to further weaken the country and maybe even split it.

Jordanians appear to think that despite his responsibility for the "catastrophe," the Iraqi president has to be exonerated, for a number of reasons. First, if it was the U.S.-led alliance's objective to remove him from power, he should stay on to deprive them of an all-out victory. Second, whether he stays or goes is up to the people of Iraq, not up to George Bush or John Major, or Turgut Ozal for that matter. Third, Iraq, more than ever now, needs a strong leader, like Saddam Hussein, to prevent the country from facing chaos, collapse or breaking up (Witness the Shi'ite rebellion in Basra which threatens, inter alia, the territorial integrity of the country). Fourth, the Jordanians had supported the man in his struggle against Western double standards and hypocrisy, and so far nothing has changed to make them feel differently about him being the symbol of Arabs who have stood up and fought back against imperialist designs and Israeli hegemony in the region. Most Jordanians have little doubt in their minds that the U.S. president would have ordered the attack against Iraq anyway, even if Baghdad had agreed to pull out of Kuwait earlier, and that at no point

throughout the crisis did Mr. Bush give peace a real chance. They cite as proof the carnage on the Basra road when an Iraqi column (including civilian cars and ambulances) which was withdrawing from Kuwait was attacked and mauled by American Navy bombers just before the ceasefire.

It will not be easy for Jordanians, in any event, to forget the past. But reality dictates that we all look ahead to the post-war era. There is no question that we are bitter that the catastrophe could not have been avoided, though we are convinced that Jordan did everything in its power to prevent it.

True, members of the government, parliament, the press and public opinion all supported Iraq. But at no point in time did Jordan withdraw its recognition of Kuwait as a sovereign, independent state. Nor did it delegitimise the Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, and his regime. In fact the Kuwaiti embassy in Amman, although heavily guarded, was open for business throughout the crisis and the ambassador moved freely in the capital, meeting Jordanians and criticising official and popular positions openly and lobbying for support all the time.

Jordanians realise the depth of resentment this country has faced and would continue to

face from Gulf and other countries over what happened. But, despite our passionate calls for reconciliation amongst Arabs and for turning a new leaf in our history, we are not and should not be apologising for any action or stance the Kingdom took during the crisis.

If anything, it is the Gulf states (save Oman) who have to apologise for misunderstanding our position and for boycotting us, one can hear Jordanians, officials and people, say. We have been for legitimacy and realism all along. The fact that Arab members of the coalition have chosen to ignore our pleas for peace and reconciliation within an Arab solution is their problem, and they will soon come to realise this.

The Jordanians are aware that it will be some time, perhaps a period of several months, before any semblance of inter-Arab reconciliation can begin to materialise. Nevertheless, we insist that Jordan would not have to pay the price for establishing a new Arab order that we feel is most needed now. Officials and people maintain — and rightly so — that Jordan and other poor Arab states would not have to beg for financial and economic assistance from oil-rich states to be part of such order. This has to be done within an agreed programme for the re-

distribution of wealth. Furthermore, Jordan would continue to urge democratisation in various parts of the Arab World, including the Gulf countries. And it would demand from them, especially Arab members of the alliance, to shoulder their responsibilities towards solving the Palestinian problem with the same intensity and vigour that they displayed in handling the Kuwait problem. "As friends and allies of the U.S., those Arabs have a special task to impose on the Americans that the U.S. cannot be less enthusiastic about freeing the Israeli-occupied territories than it was about Kuwait," a senior official said recently. He is right, for little else could help their credibility with the Arab masses otherwise.

Regarding our own role in any new attempt to settle the Palestinian problem, we Jordanians remain unsure, it is true. James Baker, the U.S. Secretary of State, is touring a number of countries in the Middle East next week, but he is not including Jordan in his itinerary. We may have noted with interest his remark on Sunday that America was "forgiving and forgetting" Jordan's "support" for Iraq during the crisis and the war that followed, even though we do not necessarily share his perception of how Jordan stood in there.

We, however, know very little about what he might be carrying with him on this tour. So, presumably, one has to wait and see on that one.

There is little doubt that Jordan will want to contribute to any positive effort towards solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, but there is no doubt that we will resist any pressure and all offers to speak on behalf of the Palestinians and sidestep the PLO.

The clock cannot be turned back. Only the Palestinians can speak for themselves and determine their own future.

The war in the Gulf has been terrible and tragic. The heavy loss in human life and the widespread devastation that it has wrought have been particularly painful for all of us. But it could have been worse. Nuclear and chemical weapons could have been used. Iraq could have been dismembered. Mass expulsion of Palestinians, or "transfer," could have taken place. Jordan could have been dragged into that pointless and senseless war.

It is too soon to judge the long-term impact on this region of the crisis in the Gulf. History, if it is not mostly guessing and the rest is not prejudice, will record not so much what took place during the war. It will have to tell us what happened afterwards.

The war: Prospects and hopes

By Dr. Marwan Ratab Asmar

IN the post-war era, one can discern the beginnings of two schools of thought in the Arab World. These can be termed as the pessimist school bordering on doomsday scenarios and the optimist or the realist school of thought perceiving favourable changes in the Arab World relating to political as well as development issues.

The pessimist school of thought sees that the "defeat" of Iraq as a victory to the allied powers and to the United States in particular. The allied powers have managed to reverse the strategic balance of power which had been weighted in favour of Iraq and had given the United States the political, military and economic power over the region. As part of this power, the defeat of Iraq has also strengthened the reactionary forces in the area and this meant a setback to the progressive forces, to democracy and to potential Arab unity. Instead, American hegemony in the area would be maintained evermore, forcing its will on the Arabs, and resulting in further divisions, widening the gap between rich and poor states and setting back the Palestine question.

The second school of thought, in the contrary, argues that there is a lot to be optimistic about in

the post-war era. It does not argue in terms of defeat but sees that the Gulf war has produced new and irreversible objective situations, ones that cannot be ignored. While holders of this view are under no illusions that the war had shown fundamental cracks in the Arab World with regards to their potential unity, their differences over interpreting Islam and some states links and interests with imperialist powers, the Gulf war nevertheless has shown that medium and small states do have a say in the international system; and the world is not a mirror image of might is right.

Holders of the realist school of thought would point to Iraqi steadfastness. This school of thought would argue that the Gulf war has brought to the forefront a number of short and long-term implications. First, Iraq has managed to stand against 30 states, for the best part of 40 days withstanding the 90,000 tonnes of explosives that were dropped by coalition war planes on Iraqi cities. That is a major achievement in itself.

Second, Iraq has agreed to a ceasefire just in time. This is a shrewd political move on the part of the Iraqi leadership in that they got out of Kuwait with a good deal of their military arsenal remaining intact. This is a point of contention with allied military

leaders like Norman Schwarzkopf who is convinced that a very large part of Iraq's military capability including its chemical weapons arsenal, has been destroyed. However, Schwarzkopf's view becomes largely redundant in the long-run largely because of the third point.

Iraq, because of the Iran-Iraq war, has entered a new phase of history because of its acquisition of military technology, a previously unheard of situation in a Third World state. That means if Iraqis were affected militarily, it is a question of time before they get back on their feet simply because they have acquired the techniques and expertise of manufacturing and adapting military hardware. In time this could mean that such military technology could be transferred into industrial technology with Iraq becoming a major economic power overcoming its present status of underdevelopment.

Fourth, Iraq has achieved far-reaching political and strategic changes in the region, than it is presently apparent. Its ability to strike at Israel with its technologically-adapted Al Hussein missiles (the Soviet Scud) meant that Israel sooner or later would have to give way on the Palestinian issue and grant the Palestinians their national right to self-determination. Successive strikes by Iraqi missiles had des-

troyed and myth that Israel could live in peace with the rest of the Arab World while at the same time forcibly holding on to the West Bank and Gaza Strip for the occupied territories ceased to have any strategic military value, since their strategic depth have become undermined by missile technology.

The latter school of thought does suggest that the world is not only made up of dynamic nation-states, but also the world must not be viewed in terms of an unilinear model where the super and great powers carry the stick and the small and medium states have to toe the line. However, the stick has no longer proved to be sufficient because the Third World as well as the states in the Arab World are becoming increasingly assertive. They no longer seem to be willing to accept more of the old stuff where they see the rich states are getting richer and poor states are getting poorer. Not only do they have more political will to challenge the status quo but they are more willing to speak out and campaign actively to try and change the prevailing status quo.

Iraq in its desperation for cash to rebuild its war-torn economy, and for other political reasons and territorial claims was led to the extreme action of invading a fellow independent and sovereign

Arab state. Whilst other Arab states did not outrightly support such an action, they gave Iraq a great deal of moral sympathy. States such as Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Libya and Tunisia whilst not supporting the invasion and annexation of a sovereign nation-state understood Iraq's motives in taking such a drastic action simply because they were in the same states of affairs. Their internal situation in lacking an industrial base, the necessary technology and food to feed its own population meant that they were relying increasingly on international financial institutions to borrow money to help them meet their needs. However, such borrowing inevitably means allowing such institutions to interfere in their local economies and dictate terms of development to the extent that such countries become increasingly dependent on western capitals and subsequently forced to enter unequal relationships with western powers.

It is this vicious cycle which poor Third World states try to opt out of but to no avail and which Iraq sought to solve by invading Kuwait and acquire its material possessions. But, also, this was not to be for the world political community composed of rich super — and great powers acted in earnest to drive Iraq to not only back to its internationally recognised border, but in doing so has destroyed its economic and social fabric, not to say anything about its political and military structure.

It is ironic to say that Iraq's military power was built with the hands of Arab capital in conjunction with western states, primarily the United States who backed Iraq against Iran to break the latter militarily and to alter the strategic balance of power in favour of Israel and Saudi Arabia. Iraq was to serve as a mere messenger boy and was not taken into the strategic equation. It was thought that its war with Iraq would destroy it too, leaving the area in the hands of two regional

powers suppressing any dissent, undermining progressive forces and leaving aside in the wilderness the Palestinian question. However, Iraq was to emerge strongest from the war with Iran coming back to challenge American and Western hegemony in the area by invading Kuwait and for this it was to pay a heavy price.

However, as said before and following the realist school of thought, such destruction on mass scale of Iraq should not be seen in vain but has regional's political, strategic and economic implications beyond realisations. As soon as the war started for instance, with the Al Hussein missiles landing on Tel Aviv, Haifa, Dimona and parts of Jerusalem, Israeli policy-makers began a flurry of diplomatic activity, going back and forth to Washington and showing signs of nervousness, weakness and trepidation. For the first time right-wing Likud politicians and hawks like David Levy and Benjamin Netanyahu began to talk about the need to talk to the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moshe Arens also talked about the need to settle differences with the Arab World and talk with some of its leaders like Hafez Assad of Syria. This is happening at precisely the same time as when other hawks in Likud are keeping quiet. On the international level, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is also coming to the Middle East with a four point plan to try and settle regional issues.

It remains to be seen whether these have borne fruit or not. However, the positive implications which Iraq has helped to create for the post-war era should not be underestimated.

The writer is a PhD graduate of Leeds University in England. He currently lectures part-time at Qurtaba community college. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

War allies need quick U.S. action on Arab-Israeli conflict

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuters

CAIRO — Arab countries soon to be visited by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker need a show of action on the Arab-Israeli dispute to justify their support for Washington during the Gulf war, Middle East diplomats and analysts say.

While the allied victory over Iraq has created a good climate for a fresh look at the problem and fostered a new, more pragmatic approach in some Arab capitals, Arab leaders cannot wait indefinitely for progress, they said.

"The Arabs want something symbolic and they want it quickly," said a Western diplomat in Cairo.

Baker leaves Washington Thursday to visit coalition allies Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria — as well as Turkey, Israel, and the Soviet Union — to try to develop a new Middle East peace process.

Diplomats expect the Arabs to tell Baker with one accord that the United States must seize the opportunity now to get to grips with the Palestinian problem which they see as the essence of the long-running Middle East crisis.

The Arab allies took big risks by siding with Washington in the war to liberate Kuwait. Conservative Saudi Arabia had to

host a huge American army on its soil, while Egypt and Syria braved discontent at home by fighting alongside Western forces against fellow Arabs.

These countries are now arguing that Israel's occupation of Arab lands in 1967 is directly comparable to the Iraqi seizure of Kuwait and that unless it is reversed U.S. President George Bush's promise of a new world order will mean nothing.

"The Arab allies are going to say: 'Look, you told us you were acting according to principles. Principles must be applied universally,'" a Western diplomat said.

Diplomats said they doubted that the Arabs had detailed ideas on the next moves in the dispute and would wait to hear what Baker comes up with.

Baker, for his part, has said he has no blueprint, but has suggested a two-pronged approach of peace talks between Israel and Arab states — long advocated by Israel — and Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

U.S. officials also say Baker may now focus on limited confidence-building measures such as easing Israeli restrictions in the occupied territories, relaxing the Arab economic boycott of Israel and holding Arab-Israeli talks on water resources.

Middle Eastern analysts said they could see the value of such

an approach, but one diplomat commented: "I'm not sure that even the Arabs in the coalition can go along with no movement on the big issues."

Ali Hilla Dessouki, a political scientist at Cairo University said: "The implementation of any project has to be step-by-step. But there is a difference between step-by-step in a dark tunnel and step-by-step when we know there is something we will later agree on."

NEWS ANALYSIS

Dessouki said the final objective had to be made clear, and Arab governments could suggest that Washington re-state its commitment to the "land-for-peace" principle — that Israel surrender territory in return for recognition by Arab states.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir fiercely opposes the idea, and Arab countries have few illusions that he will make concessions now, but they have not ceased to believe that Washington has more leverage with Israel than it admits.

If U.S. leaders could get some kind of Israeli-Palestinian talks started, this would be welcomed by the Arabs, who would also like to see a resumption of U.S.-

Palestinian talks, analysts said. Washington broke off talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last June following a Palestinian guerrilla attack on Israel.

Diplomats said one effect of the Gulf war in scaling down Arab expectations appeared to be a fall-off in support for the idea of an international peace conference, once widely considered a panacea for the Middle East problem.

Israel has always opposed a conference, the United States has been sceptical, and Western Europe is now also signalling it may not be a top priority. German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has said it should not be made "a theological issue."

Diplomats say many Arabs too may no longer be so sold on the idea. "They won't die in the ditch for a conference," one said. Egypt has already said it would be open to other approaches.

The war has also weakened PLO standing with the Arab allies, because it supported Iraq. Analysts said these Arab countries might now be more amenable to non-PLO figures representing the Palestinians at peace talks, but the problem was the support the PLO leadership enjoys from ordinary Palestinians, precisely because it backed Baghdad.

LETTERS

A hack to learn from

As a journalist struggling to make a living, I feel I must protest the amount of space given to Rami Khouri's well thought out and even better executed piece (Tuesday Feb. 5). Those hacks like myself who, after reading it, tore up everything they ever wrote on issues surrounding the last seven months here in the Middle East are now faced with a great dilemma. Do we give up journalism; can we possibly be of use to society in another profession?

If this man Rami G. Khouri does not change his ways there is a very real danger of this clarity of thought spreading, causing more unemployment of our noble craftsmen and women. Even more dramatic is the idea of alternatives to the crazy comfortable downward spiral of events here, challenging habits of a lifetime and thrusting us all into a future where mankind's desire for peace and justice become a possibility through understanding and respect.

What a horrible prospect. If a Rami reads this please send me an "I Love Rami" T-shirt large size and please tell me how to join your fan club.

Tim Barker,
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Japanese fear effect of Gulf war images on children

By Teruaki Ueno
Reuters

TOKYO — As the Gulf war ends, Japanese mothers are wondering what it has done to their children.

They fear emotional damage may result from watching blanket television coverage of the fighting.

Keiko Furukawa recalls being shocked by the glee with which her six-year-old son Masayuki watched live television pictures of a U.S. fighter-bomber taking off on a mission to destroy targets in Iraq. "Wow that's a real

beauty," he shouted. She was at a loss as to what she should tell her children about the Gulf war. They saw the bombing of Baghdad "as toys simply being torn down," said the 27-year-old mother of two.

Experts say exposure to such violence could push youngsters into aggression.

Kazuo Shimada, a professor of social psychology at Tokyo's University of the Sacred Heart, says that watching the war put children in unprecedented danger. "It could stimulate their latent aggression," he said.

On the first day of the Gulf war, Furukawa and her neighbours met to discuss how to deal with their children's interest in the violent images being beamed into their living rooms.

As the allies launched their first air raids on Iraq on Jan. 17, public and private television stations in Japan quickly cancelled normal programmes and went over to live coverage of the war. Many children's shows were scrapped.

Furukawa said she felt she should turn off the television for the sake of her children,

but wanted to see what was happening for herself.

"Even pornography is much, much better for children than such violent scenes,"

Experts say children need explanations of what war is all about since they cannot fully distinguish between fantasy and reality.

"War is nothing but the most brutal form of mass killing. This is what parents should tell their children," said Hiroyoshi Ishikawa, a professor of social psychology at Seijo University.

Simply banning them from

watching war coverage was not the answer—they should see it but have it properly explained by their parents.

"They can take it," he said.

"Japanese children do not take the war seriously because no damage has been directly inflicted on them," said Hisayo Nara, a housewife with an 11-year-old son.

"They see the war as a drama or something which does not exist in the real world."

Hiroshi Minami, a former professor of social psychology at Hitotsubashi University, said children associated the

battle scenes on television more easily with combat simulations in video games than with reality.

"Children are more likely to become apathetic toward war, let alone to the reality of the outside world, if they see war only through broadcast images that ignore the wretchedness and bitterness behind it," Minami said.

Four-year-old Shonichi Yoshizawa constantly asked his mother about the war. Among his questions: "Is the war in Tokyo? That's what they say at school... isn't this a war between the planets?"

One man, one vote' doesn't fit in Polynesia'

By David Stamp
Reuters

APIA, Western Samoa — Western Samoa's traditional chiefs are set to lose their political monopoly in this Pacific nation, but maverick parliamentarian Le Tagaloa Pita says Western ideas of one man, one vote don't fit in Polynesia.

Government teams are visiting villages throughout the tropical islands to register voters for Western Samoa's first general election under universal suffrage, expected next month.

The number of voters will leap to over 70,000 from about 20,000 now. But Le Tagaloa, the only independent member of the Fono (parliament), believes that ending exclusive voting rights for the Matais (chiefs) is a step backwards.

"The Samoan system is perhaps the best form of

democracy that ever existed in this world and it's working very well for the benefit of all, not just some," said Le Tagaloa, a former trade and economic affairs minister with a reputation as a tough political operator. Like all Samoan politicians, he is a Matai.

"What we have now is the forced introduction of what is dictatorial rule pretending to be universal suffrage."

After independence from New Zealand administration in 1962, Western Samoa adopted Westminster-style parliamentary democracy but with one major concession to tradition — only Matais were allowed to stand and vote in general elections.

Matais, who are heads of extended families, are traditional leaders in a country which still sticks rigidly to the old Polynesian way of life, known as "Fa'a Samoa."

They hold enormous authority from village level — the heart of Samoan political, social and economic life — up to the top.

Even under universal suffrage, only Matais will be allowed to stand for parliament.

Last year Prime Minister Tofiga Ete Alesana called a referendum, open to all Western Samoans over 21, to decide whether universal suffrage should come at last.

After a short campaign which aroused passions, a one-man, one-vote system was approved by a narrow majority. Tofiga wants to call the first open election for March 29 if registration is completed in time.

"I want all the Samoan citizens... to have some feeling of belonging to their country and a feeling of direct affiliation with the selection of their future lead-

ers rather than for the majority of the population to just sit back and watch what the result of the election will be," Tofiga said in an interview.

Drawing ordinary Samoans into political life should also combat apathy and arouse their enthusiasm for reviving the subsistence economy, which has stagnated for many years.

"Once they believe... they belong to this country, then they will have the feeling of trying to nurse their country economically and socially," Tofiga said.

He also cited a big rise in number of Matais which had diluted their authority. Some Matais with political ambitions have created new titles for family members to win more votes.

Tofiga defended keeping parliament an exclusive club for Matais. "You can't change the whole system

overnight," he said. "Let's take it easy this time."

However, he said elections could be opened to non-Matai candidates in a few years' time.

All this is anathema to 53-year-old Le Tagaloa, a typically burly Samoan who has quit both Tofiga's Human Rights Protection Party and the opposition Samoa National Development Party during his turbulent political career.

"We've had stability for the last 30 years. Now they're introducing instability," he said during an interview at his home in the suburbs of the capital, Apia.

He pointed to turmoil in other Pacific nations which have universal suffrage such as Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.

Le Tagaloa scornfully dismissed the referendum, saying: "It has no standing,

it's only an opinion poll."

He has launched a supreme court case, arguing that the Fono illegally changed the constitution without the necessary two-thirds majority.

Le Tagaloa, a U.S.-educated economist who once supported President John Kennedy while a member of the New Jersey Democrats, says Samoa's traditional system suits its communal society ideally.

"It takes democracy right to the level of family, village and district... consultation and consensus are the two hallmarks of the Matai system," he said.

"In a one man, one vote (system) you're just number. The winner takes it all and the loser licks his wounds. These are the problems of universal suffrage. I think Samoa should be spared from it."

Suicides pose hazard to Luxembourg valley dwellers

By Julia Hayley
Reuters

LUXEMBOURG — People living under Luxembourg's highest bridge go in constant fear of being hit by a falling body.

"They fall on our roofs, they fall in our gardens... they land in the middle of the street in broad daylight," said Clement Engelmann.

He and other residents of Pfaffenthal, an old part of town in the shadow of towering cliffs, have been complaining ever since the 75 metre high bridge was built over the gorge to the east of the capital in 1966.

They have been peppered with beer bottles, stones and all sorts of debris.

But the suicides are the worst. The roofs of two of the 10 houses under the bridge have an obvious patch of new tiles. From that height bodies go straight through and end up in the attic, Engelmann said.

Residents cannot insure their houses against such damage.

"It's an abnormal risk and no one will do it," said Ernest Voss, inspector with Assur-lux, one of Luxembourg's biggest insurers.

No one has kept an exact count of the number of bodies that have landed in the two streets immediately under the elegant red steel bridge.

Newspaper reports say there were 67 in the 15 years

to 1989. In 1989 there were at least 10. Engelmann, who is secretary of the local residents' association, says the average is three or four a year.

No one has survived the fall.

Luxembourg's suicide rate is not the highest in Europe but recent figures from the State Statistics Office (Statoc) show it has climbed steadily since the mid 1950s to reach the level of the depressed early 1930s.

Luxembourg's capital, perched on a rock cut away on three sides by rivers, boasts 93 bridges and extensive cliffs. Jumping off high places accounts for around 20 per cent of suicides compared with six per cent at the beginning of the century.

The 350-metre long "red bridge" is wedged into the top of the gorge cut by the Alzette River. It carried the main road to Germany and connects the capital with the European Community institutions.

Engelmann said that as the bridge's notoriety grows, it attracts more suicides and increases the danger for the 15 families directly underneath.

Strangely, people always choose to jump onto the houses either side and not into the river or the vegetable plots along the middle of the valley.

"Perhaps it's a fear of not being found," Engelmann

said.

In 1987 Luxembourg ranked ninth out of 35 countries with a rate of 19.9 suicides per 100,000 inhabitants, according to World Health Organisation figures. Statoc's own calculations gave a rate of 24.4 for the same year.

Pfaffenthal residents took to sending telegrams to the minister of public works each time there was a new suicide.

No one has yet been killed by a falling body, but locals say it is bound to happen one day. Parents worry about the effect on children who see a suicide.

The government is, at last, responding to residents' petitions and trying out preventative measures.

Four different plastic panels have been put up along the side of the bridge to see which looks best.

"We just want the highest (panel)," Engelmann said.

The government may eventually roof over the bridge's pavements at a cost of up to 100 million Luxembourg francs (\$3.3 million), if studies conclude this will not spoil the bridge.

A Luxembourg doctor, who asked not to be named, said suicides were mainly a result of loneliness.

"It's a problem which exists in all European countries," she said. "But it's a social problem, not a medical one."

"People are more and more isolated,"

Screaming Lord Sutch — Britain's official Loony

By Giles Elgood
Reuters

LONDON — Britain's longest serving political party leader is an ageing rock singer who campaigns in a black top hat and a leopard skin suit.

Screaming Lord Sutch — David to his friends — is head of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party as well as lead singer in a rock band called The Savages.

Dedicated to putting the fun back into politics, the self-named Sutch is pitching for votes again in a parliamentary by-election this month under the slogan "Vote for insanity — you know it makes sense."

His policies include solving Britain's financial problems by extending the Channel Tunnel to Switzerland to dig for gold in the bank vaults of Zurich.

He has also proposed turning the European Community butter mountain into a ski run and making dogs eat luminous food so you can see their mess in the dark.

Sutch's "bank of Loonyland" has printed its own pound notes with a portrait of a smiling Margaret Thatcher in place of the usual likeness of Queen Elizabeth.

Sitting unshaven in the cluttered Victorian parlour of Roe Villa, his West London base, Sutch, 50, explains that he is a little hung over after playing a concert which kept him up until after 5 a.m.

He is so confident of victory in the March 7 by-election in the northwest English constituency of Ribblesdale that he has booked a local pub for his victory party on March 6, saying he wants to get his celebrating in early.

"We're not silly in the Loony Party," said Sutch in an interview.

He also disclosed that he is considering setting up a camel sanctuary for beasts which fell victim to the Gulf war.

Sutch said the Ribblesdale Valley poll is his 30th attempt to stand for parliament.

His long political career has already eclipsed that of another legendary British eccentric — the late Commander Bill Roake, who stood a record 28 times for his Public Safety Democratic Monarchist White Resident Party.

Sutch went into politics in 1963 when he founded the National Teenage Party. His first march took a wrong turn and nearly ended up in a canal.

He says people thought he was mad when he proposed cutting the voting age to 18, setting up commercial radio stations to challenge the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and allowing pubs to stay open all day.

All these measures have since been introduced by governments over the years.

Membership of the Official Monster Raving Loony Party is now around 6,000, Sutch

said. It has had one election success when Alan Hope, a west of England pub manager, stood unopposed for a local council seat.

Sutch credits himself with changing the face of British politics when he came sixth and still won twice as many votes as the minority Social Democratic Party (SDP) in a May 1990 by-election.

The SDP was so humiliated that it folded shortly afterwards. The Independent newspaper commented: "It was either extinction or a pact with Screaming Lord Sutch."

Parallel with his political career, Sutch has kept on performing with his band The Savages.

"I was a big name before the Rolling Stones, before the Beatles. They're not bad for newcomers," Sutch said.

His records have included such titles as Hands Of Jack The Ripper, Dracula's Daughter and She's Fallen In Love With A Monster Man.

Generally they have not been chart successes, but Sutch's band has nurtured a truly impressive list of stars.

They have included Keith Moon of The Who, Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin, Ritchie Blackmore of Deep Purple, Nicky Hopkins, who played with the Rolling Stones and two members of the Jimi Hendrix experience.

"I feel very proud of them. Honestly. No regrets," said Sutch.

After the funeral

By E. Yaghi

LUCY was dead. Not long after her death, many of her relatives came upon hearing the news. They filled her small house with their wails and tears. She was as greatly loved by those who knew her as perhaps any person could be loved. Even her male nephews and cousins stood around in desolation with saddened looks and tears streaming down their faces.

However, following the initial shock of her death, human nature took its course and people being what they are, resumed being themselves. The first tears of many had dried. Small groups of people gathered together and primarily talked about Lucy's departure, but as the evening wore on, also discussed other events, people and eventually the Gulf war.

The greatest blow of her death was borne by her five children. Her oldest, a daughter, could not stop crying. Her youngest son, a 7-year-old, was at a total loss without his mother. At first, he cried heavily too, but then sought comfort in the arms of various female relatives. When his mother was taken for burial, he refused to stay behind in the sanctity of his home, but accompanied her to the cemetery where in the black of night, he saw some members of the funeral procession place his beloved mother's body in her grave. Much later, the youngest returned to the secure circle of women, his eyes wide and bright. Momentarily, he had accepted her departure. The shock of her loss had not settled in his young mind. However, his older brothers and sister were much more immediately perturbed than he. Although his oldest brother had stopped crying, he carried the loss of his mother with a solemn face and painful eyes.

For those left on earth, life keeps moving on and the large group of condolers oozed attention. Some of the women and men among them got up to help serve the rest of the guests. Nevertheless, a great burden of serving black unsweetened coffee fell on the shoulders of Lucy's children.

In the women's room, someone inconsiderately served tea. It wasn't really the time for a sweetened cup of tea, yet it was served anyway. Amidst conversation and confusion of feet coming and going, cups of tea were spilled on Lucy's carpet that had always been kept so clean. Her kitchen in effect, seemed raided as clusters of women buzzed in and out, back and forth, attending to their own needs and the needs of others. Because some young children were present, the air was filled with their cries and protests which mixed with the mumble of suppressed conversation.

As the evening wore on, Lucy's youngest child finally fell asleep, comforted by some aunts who patted and covered him until his eyes, heavy with weariness could stay open no longer. Lucy was gone and buried. Her little house spent its first night without her caring presence.

As always, the next day, the sun rose over the dusky hills. Its rays cheerful with bright yellow hues. Birds sang perched on trees and window sills. Cars honked and people went about carrying on their lives as usual. But Lucy's children would never be the same. Her daughter had cried herself to sleep. Her oldest son looked like he had too, but because he was 15 years old, couldn't admit his grief. The youngest boy scampered about like a baby rabbit and went to seek a treasured toy to bring him comfort. Meanwhile, Lucy's two middle boys tended to their guests with red faces and tearful eyes.

If the first day of Lucy's death brought sort of a bushy merriment, the day after brought bolder actions. Partially over the loss of their companion, people returned to useless and empty conversation and Lucy's small house appeared it would fall apart at its seams from all the people who retraced indelible paths on the carpet. In the centre of the women, Lucy's elderly mother sat in quiet silence observing the madness around her. Some people, forgetting to respect death and the loss incurred on the rest of Lucy's family, spoke in louder voices. Some laughed. Most incredibly retained healthy appetites. All but Lucy's children, mother, brothers and sisters felt their loss deep within their hearts. But Lucy was no longer around to console her mother and dry her children's tears. Nor was she around to mop up the messes that were left for a bereaved daughter to clean.

Traditional mansafs were made and in the following days, mourners satisfied their appetites as they continued their visits, their conversations and their lives.

One week after Lucy's death, candy and sweets were distributed and her house became a sticky mess filled with sesame seeds, candy wrappers and further spilled tea. In petrified silence, Lucy's daughter watched her relatives desecrate her mother's treasured possession. She could hardly wait until all the sympathisers left and went to their own homes. Lucy's oldest son was quiet too, but resentful how healthy most appetites had become and how some sweets were confiscated by boarding women and crammed into purses to take back to their homes for later feasting.

Time has passed. Since Lucy's death, a winter rain has softly fallen on Lucy's shrouded grave. There is a whisper of a ceasefire in the making. Many Iraqis have died. Death knows no age. Lucy's little house is quiet now. The buzzing mourners have returned to their own lives and homes. But in Lucy's house there will no longer be her gentle loving touch. Her hugs for her children have ceased to be. She is no longer around to welcome them home from school with a warm cooked meal and listen with an attentive ear to their fears and joys.

The youngest boy is now beginning to really feel the loss of his mother's care. One of his uncles even said in a careless manner, "do you know where your mother is now? Did you realise what happened and that she is dead?"

The small child who has to face life without a mother turned out to be much more clever than his thoughtless uncle and replied with his eyes unblinking, "Yes, I do know. I went to the cemetery with my mother the night she died. She was an 'Amanah' (trust from God). and God took his trust."

As for Lucy's husband, don't worry. He'll get over his wife's death for he has many concerned in-laws who are right now looking for a wife to replace the one he just lost. Some of the women who were crying the loudest when Lucy died are being kind enough to encourage her husband to get married soon. Do her children mind? Very much. Does Lucy care? No, not at all, for she has now left the worries of this world and gone to a far better one where she will live forever in an eternal Garden of Eden with the River Kowthar flowing at her side.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

Revenge is always the weak pleasure of a little and narrow mind

— Juvenal, Roman lawyer-satirist. (about 60 A.D.—140 A.D.).

Do all the good you can and make no fuss about it
— Charles Dickens, English author (1812-1870).

Children's television

By Maha Addasi

Many adults and older children love cartoons and make time to watch them, maybe while baby-sitting and sometimes even when they are alone. Most cartoon characters are very cute and attract the viewers like they should. But it never occurs to some people that there should be parental guidance for cartoons.

Why, you may ask?

Because aside from the violence in cartoons that psychologists refer to, cartoons have been distressing lately.

One 18-year-old girl was watching a cartoon with her eight-year-old cousin and said that her own lips quivered at some of the emotional scene.

The 18-year-old was referring to a cartoon called "Honey Beecker", which is about this cute little bee who goes in search of his lost mother who was taken away from him when he had barely "hatched".

So, he goes all over the woods facing vicious ants in colonies, among other perils, all in the hopes of finding a clue that would lead him to his mother.

All fine and well, you'd think. The suspense is part of the story, and the little bee's hard work should pay off at the end, which would, most definitely, be a happy one.

Not quite, I was told, because at the end when the bee does find his mother she is trapped under a pile of stones and he is only able to hold her hand before an explosion takes her away from him once again. Maybe for good, this time.

"At that point," said the 18-year-old, "If I had as much as looked at my little cousin wrong, she would have burst into heart-wrenching tears."

"Actually, I needed a good cry myself," she admitted.

"All over a stupid bee, an insect I would avoid in real life."

Real life is full of distress, so why are little kids hardened with these bigger-than-life problems before hand? Why the previous?

The whole deal with cartoons is a trap. The characters are so cute they catch kids' attention and then you are very much interested to know what happens to these characters.

According to psychologists there are many things about cartoons that are purposely there to attract attention. Many



feel the problem isn't in attraction to the cartoon. These people complain about the frustration and distress their children go through while watching and the nightmares their children have later on.

One parents eloquently said that cartoons are "children's torture sessions at their finest."

Other parents while watching cartoons with their children always search for the "cross-bones" at the top corner of the screen that indicates the cartoon is categorised "horror". Most people support this view.

Antarctica littered with man's monuments and muck

By Paul Mylrea
Reuters

PALMER STATION. Antarctica — Tins of biscuits still line the shelves in Captain Robert F. Scott's hut, barely changed since he left 80 years ago for the South Pole never to return.

The bitter cold and dryness of the world's last wilderness work better than any museum curator.

Almost everything is preserved in the Antarctic continent, a frozen storehouse for more than two thirds of the world's fresh water even though no more rain falls than in the Sahara Desert.

Scientists seeking clues on how the world's climate has changed find a 150,000 year record in the ice cap which extends to a depth of up to three miles (8.4 kilometres) near the South Pole.

But the harsh conditions which keep intact this planetary records as well as monuments to intrepid explorers also preserve the waste man leaves behind.

Until this century Antarctica, home to little more than birds, seals and a few plants, was the cleanest place on Earth.

But man, who knew little about the continent until con-

certed scientific research began in 1957, is slowly changing that.

Environmental groups such as Greenpeace have reported abuses including oil spills, abandoned machinery, rubbish dumps and the piping of untreated sewage into pristine waters.

Environmentalists say the main culprits are the bases where scientists try to unravel the complex connections between atmosphere, ice and sea in Antarctica which help to regulate world weather.

Although the nations which have signed the 1959 Antarctic Treaty have maintained the continent as a peaceful international scientific reserve for 30 years and agreed to freeze territorial claims, many countries see it as a question of national pride to maintain a base.

There are now as many as 40 year-round bases and another 20 or so in the short summer months, each with its waste problems.

Waste and pollution not only threaten the environment, they also endanger experiments for which a clean environment is crucial.

Countries like the United States are now making a big effort to clean up their act

after pointed criticism.

In 1988 Greenpeace and the Environmental Defence Fund criticised the National Science Foundation (NSF), which runs U.S. polar research, for burning rubbish and dumping untreated sewage.

A year later Antarctic Treaty nations tightened up a code of conduct on waste disposal, calling for the removal of any toxic or radioactive waste and a clean-up of past mistakes.

Washington created a special clean-up budget last year for the polar programme. The changes are beginning to show at this U.S. research base on the Antarctic peninsula on the other side of the continent from McMurdo where Scott's base is preserved.

Rubbish is now sorted and recycled or shipped out. Dumps are being cleared up. An old station is slowly being dismantled.

The biggest change is in attitude.

William Woodward, an oil spill expert working as a consultant for the NSF, told Reuters: "Over the years there have been too many people (at the bases) who had a nine-month tour and their attitude was 'leave it for the next guy'."

"Now there is a new approach and things are really

looking up... they're making great strides forward," he said.

Mike Patterson, a construction supervisor who has worked at the U.S.'s McMurdo and South Pole bases, said: "There has been an incredible swing towards concern for the environment."

But Greenpeace says more can be done and some nations are still not committed to keeping Antarctica clean.

Just before a month-long cruise to Antarctica in February to monitor the impact of scientific bases, Greenpeace detailed some of the continuing abuses such as the Argentine base where 30 years worth of debris has been thrown down a mountainside.

Greenpeace campaigner Janet Dalziel said: "We intend to keep bringing facts back to the public of those countries about how their governments should really behave in Antarctica."

For the people who work in Antarctica and have sampled its magic, the clean-up makes sense.

Patterson, a former welder in a nuclear plant who has worked for seven years in Antarctica, said: "This place is a little too special to be spoiled."

I had a dream...

By Lara Philippi

Every soldier's weapon was replaced by a shovel, as he was transformed from defender of land to savior of the Earth. War was abolished and became only a part of an unfortunate and shameful history. The nations of the world were working together, each accepting the responsibility of providing a certain human requirement.

The building of war machines was replaced by constructive activities such as education and planting. Children were not merely encouraged to communicate as an alternative to quarreling but were made to know that communication was the only means to solving any problem.

Efforts were no longer put into the production of destruction but rather, people were looking for ways to make the world better. There even seemed hope as far as saving the ozone of our planet because everyone realised that each person had to do his share and did it.

Earth was again flourishing... Nature, again taking a recognisable form. People working hard, but not too hard to be able to reap the fruits of their efforts. Everybody could find a reason to smile and be happy about...

...But it was too good to be true, for just then I heard the alarm clock ring me back to reality. Realising again where I was, I looked upwards and, with my deepest prayers, wished that dreams could come true.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, March 7

1821 — Neapolitan rebels are crushed at Rieti by Austrians.

1876 — Egyptian forces are defeated at Gura by Ethiopians.

1935 — Restoration of Saar to Germany marks beginning of German expansion.

1936 — Germany violates Treaty of Versailles by occupying demilitarised zone in the Rhineland.

1941 — British troops invade Italian-occupied Abyssinia (Ethiopia) in World War II.

1945 — British 14th army enters Mandalay in Burma in World War II.

1951 — Premier Ali Razmara of Iran is assassinated.

1956 — Unrest, fomented by Stalinist faction, breaks out in Soviet Georgia.

1986 — United States and Soviet Union pledge to protect all weaker nations from nuclear blackmail and aggression.

1977 — Saudi Arabia announces it will give \$1 billion in aid to black Africa.

1988 — British soldiers and police fatally shoot three Irish Republican Army guerrillas after they plant car bomb set to go off during military parade in British colony of Gibraltar.

1989 — China declares martial law in Tibetan capital of Lhasa following three days of anti-Chinese rioting.

1990 — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev demands billions of dollars in hard currency to cover Soviet investments if Lithuania secedes from Soviet Union.

1904 — Germany revises 1872 anti-Jesuit law to permit return of some members of the Roman Catholic order.

1917 — Riots and strikes break out in St. Petersburg, marking start of Russian Revolution.

1949 — Soviet Union puts its Far East army on alert as warning to China after frontier clash on Ussuri River.

1970 — Cyprus President Makarios escapes assassination when terrorist snipers shoot down his helicopter.

1986 — Guerrilla violence in Colombia takes seven lives on day prior to national elections.

1989 — Troops converge on Tibetan capital of Lhasa to enforce martial law following three days of anti-Chinese rioting.

1990 — West German parliament adopts resolution calling on united Germany to honour Poland's western border.

Friday, March 8

1876 — Turkish troops begin massacre of Bulgarians.

1950 — Japan defeats Russian forces at Mukden.

1942 — Japanese complete conquest of Dutch Island of Java in Indonesia during World War II.

1959 — Unsuccessful army revolt ends in Mosul, Iraq.

1964 — Fighting breaks out in Kilm, Cyprus.

1969 — Lieutenant General Moneim Riad, chief of

staff of Egypt's armed forces, is killed during Israeli-Egyptian gun battle across Suez Canal.

1970 — United States declines to recognise new white-ruled Republic of Rhodesia, and closes U.S. consulate in that African Nation.

1976 — Cable car plunges to ground near northern Italian city of Trento, killing 42 skiers.

1989 — NATO and Warsaw Pact open complex talks in Vienna aimed at curbing armed might built up in 40 years of East-West enmity.

1990 — Two Germanys begin preliminary reunification talks.

1917 — British forces capture Baghdad during World War I.

1921 — France, in treaty with Turkey, renounces claim to Cilicia.

1938 — German forces enter Austria.

1943 — British Eighth Army repulses heavy German counterattacks in Tunisia in World War II.

1966 — Mobs sweep through Calcutta, India, and surrounding towns in second day of food riots, and police kill five of the rioters.

1975 — Two Portugal Air Force planes attack military barracks in Lisbon in what is called attempt to overthrow left-wing military government.

1977 — Brazil cancels 25-year-old military assistance treaty with United States because of U.S. State Department report criticising its alleged violations of human rights.

1989 — Two dozen nations sign declaration in the Netherlands enlisting United Nations as watchdog against pollution of Earth's atmosphere.

1990 — Lithuanian parliament declares independence from Soviet Union.

Saturday, March 9

1814 — Napoleon Bonaparte is forced to withdraw at Battle of Laon, France.

1919 — Nationalists riot in Cairo following deportation from Egypt of Said Zaghlul Pasha.

1922 — Strikes break out in Johannesburg, South Africa, and martial law is declared.

1942 — Rangoon, Burma, falls to Japanese forces in World War II.

1952 — Soviet Union proposes four-power conference on unification and disarmament of Germany.

1972 — Cambodia's Premier Lon Nol takes over complete control of Cambodian government.

1975 — North Vietnam troops seize most of South Vietnam's provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot in central highlands.

1988 — U.S. economic pressure mounts on General Manuel Antonio Noriega's military government in Panama.

1989 — About 100,000 workers move into Iraq's war-battered southern port of Basra to hasten reconstruction of what once was called the "Venice of the east."

1990 — Lithuania parliament declares independence from Soviet Union.

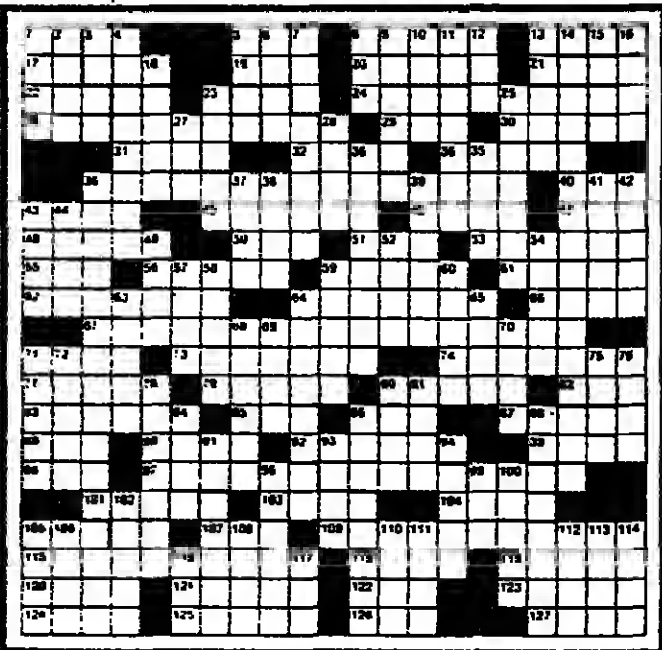
By The Associated Press

Weekend Crossword

WORKS AND MUSIC

By William Canine

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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Old lady's birthday party was nearly spoiled when some big mouth spilled her true age.
2. Conspicuous, each summer, autumn, winter and spring day has awesome display.
3. Blackbird dealer kept just one step ahead of four opponents because of house odds.
4. Pimp had standing knee-deep in snow hugged the tall snowman.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. QBCVSEQZSEI FEWLA VB VGC OSQAPVCA
WEIRF KLAFL KL ZLBF GH FV BVLFA SVF
REAFVCEONA —By Gordon Miller
2. UGLLE BUJOYD GIXH AZI YEM HE QSUKE
KUL BOSS RUBY PLIZLEA PEULLEA LAZY
DX QURJ LX PSZM —By Ed Heddleston
3. KIO FI LUQC RAOOHR ZYPAER WHO EIQE
ISV 'Y JAPB'E CREO SPABEL' AK U VIZY
EIV SIP EUSRYRWAKJ —By Lois H. Jones
4. MPCE BRUS'H SAUCE Y MYXMBGU IXACC
AH PRU IXTPU FGPEFFXB —By Barbara J. Reid

1. Great
2. Small
3. Large
4. Medium
5. Tiny
6. Huge
7. Massive
8. Gigantic
9. Enormous
10. Colossal
11. Immense
12. Vast
13. Boundless
14. Infinite
15. Limitless
16. Endless
17. Unfathomable
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B.C.



Bertolucci: It's about time for five-hour film

By Daniel Cox

Reuter

NEW YORK — It took 14 years of waiting, but Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci is finally pleased with his film "1900".

An uncut five hours and 11-minutes long version of the 1977 film opened recently at a New York Revivals Cinema to rave reviews. It has also popped up in other U.S. cities.

Bertolucci says this revitalized version is a far cry from the controversial, three-hour "1900" that Paramount Studios released in 1977 despite his objections.

"That one was completely incomprehensible," Bertolucci said in a telephone interview from his Italian home. "You couldn't understand it at all."

The epic film, starring a young Robert De Niro, an ageing Burt Lancaster and Frenchman Gerard Depardieu, portrays the landowner-peasant class struggle between two Italian families through five generations, culminating in the overthrow of the blackshirts in World War II.

By the time Bertolucci completed the original film it was five hours long, several months late and had cost almost double its original \$5 million budget.

Paramount executives, upset at the excess, chopped it nearly in half — without Bertolucci's help.

Despite glowing reviews, Bertolucci was enraged and threatened to sue over the three-hour version.

Paramount relented and offered a four-hour version, which the Italian director said was better but still inadequate.

The row eventually faded with the film but Paramount executives decided last year that releasing a fully restored version might work, to Bertolucci's long-overdue satisfaction.

"It was a kind of victory, many years too late," the director said. "But I'm of

course very pleased that someone can see it as I conceived it."

The uncut version, which Bertolucci said was actually seen in European cinemas in 1977, depicts more of the political side to the rise of the socialist and labour movements in pre-World War I Italy.

It also restores some of the explicit sexual scenes which critics likened to Bertolucci's *Last Tango in Paris*.

The English-language soundtrack has been redubbed in Dolby stereo and the film's colourtrack has been fully restored under the supervision of the film's original director of photography,

Vittorio Storaro.

"I think people today will like the movie, whereas back then they didn't," Bertolucci said. "Obviously, red flags don't terrify anyone anymore. What was scary in 1976 and 1977 is no longer scary today."

Bertolucci, whose *The Last Emperor* won him an Academy Award for directing in 1987, said he was also glad to see a film released today that offered a political point of view.

"It will be good for a young audience to see a kind of movie that you cannot see today, including me. Nobody has that kind of political energy."



Bernardo Bertolucci

Works by Claudel attract 100,000 to small town

By Hanns Neuerbourg
The Associated Press

MARTIGNY, Switzerland — Her lover was revered as a modern-day Michelangelo. Her brother became a towering figure in French literature. But sculptress Camille Claudel died in obscurity in an insane asylum in 1943.

It took four decades, as many books, a prize-winning movie and shows in France, the United States, Japan and Germany to reveal her as an artistic genius in her own right.

What is billed as the most complete exhibition yet of her works is drawing to a close at Martigny's modernist Museum of the Fondation Pierre Gianadda. In the past three months, the show, which includes some works never displayed before, has attracted 100,000 visitors, almost 10 times the population of Martigny.

The 92 mostly autobiographical sculptures, paintings and drawings plus photographs and letters tell a story of passion and despair that had the "dimensions of an ancient Greek tragedy," as Zurich art historian Laura Arici put it.

The earliest exhibits were created by Claudel at age 17 before joining the workshop of Auguste Rodin, then already rising to worldwide fame. They include a fine bronze head of her younger brother Paul that is evidence of her great talent.

As a poet, playwright and essayist, Paul left a lasting mark on French literature and was elevated into the Academie Francaise.

Claudel, a striking young beauty, was soon involved in a tempestuous affair with Rodin, 24 years her senior. His feelings are manifest in a yellowed letter exhibited here and discovered only recently by Reine-Marie Paris, Claudel's grand-niece and author of her biography.

"I am on my knees to embrace your beautiful body," Rodin's 1883 letter to Claudel says. The words strike a note Claudel cast into bronze five years later in "Sakountala," showing a nude couple in the throes of desire.

The almost life-size sculpture, also shown here, marked the peak of their passions.

By then their romance was the talk of France, shocking her middle-class family. Her mother rejected her.

Relations with Rodin chilled as Claudel became growingly aware that he would never part with Rose Beuret, a seamstress who became his lifelong companion in 1864 although they did not marry until 1917, the year both died.

Cartoon-style drawings dated 1892 suggest Claudel had little sympathy for her much older rival. One portrays Beuret as an ugly-faced, broom-swinging woman walking away from a bearded Rodin chained to a wall.

Another exhibit is "L'Age Mur" (Ripe Old Age), Claudel's only state-commissioned work, from 1895. It shows a kneeling young woman imploringly holding the arm of a man following an old woman.

Her attachment remained strong.

"I am sleeping in the nude," she wrote Rodin in an 1892 letter, "then I dream you would be here but then I wake up and everything is changed. Don't be unfaithful to me again."

The 92 mostly autobiographical sculptures, paintings and drawings plus photographs and letters tell a story of passion and despair that had the "dimensions of an ancient Greek tragedy," as Zurich art historian Laura Arici put it.

Art historian Arici said in a review of the show: "Unfamiliar with female strategies, she was, as a woman, completely at the mercy of Rodin. He left her in the status of a mistress. She had to abort their children."

A painting exhibited here shows doves flying over a child lying seemingly lifeless on a beach. She did the canvas in 1898, the year she and Rodin ended their affair.

The statue of a mortally wounded young woman, titled "Niobide Blessée" and dated 1907, completes the show.

She destroyed many of her later works. Some earlier ones are believed to carry Rodin's signature.

In 1913, Claudel's brother committed her to an asylum. Photographs record her decline. One shows her as a bleak-looking old woman with a bloated face. By then, she was long forgotten.

"You tell me that God has mercy upon the griefed ones," Reine-Marie Paris quotes from an unfinished draft letter Claudel wrote to her brother in 1929.

"All right, let us talk about your God who allows an innocent woman to rot in the dungeons of an insane asylum."

Claudel's death in 1943 at age 79 went unnoticed. A French art encyclopedia listed her as dead already in 1920.

Van Gogh and the Moderns — centenary show in Essen

By Roland Gross

ESSEN — Vincent Van Gogh died in 1890. His brother Theo died in mysterious circumstances six months later. But it wasn't long before his art began to inspire an entire generation of successors, the generation that came to be known, in the 20 years after Van Gogh's death, as the Moderns.

Van Gogh paintings have now changed hands for over DM100,000 which can be sure to guarantee six-figure attendance at exhibitions of his work. Figures are the impressive initial facts, the vital statistics, of a large-scale venture such as the exhibition staged by the Folkwang Museum, in Essen, under the heading "Van Gogh And The Moderns, 1890-1914."

There were 1.3 million visitors to the Van Gogh retrospective in Amsterdam; half a million are expected in Essen.

Ruhrgas AG of Essen are sponsoring the event. The organisers refuse to say how much the 54 Van Goghs and 132 other paintings are in-

sured for; they include work by Munch, Brague, Matisse, De Vlaminck, Picasso, Delaunay, Kirchner, Kandinsky, Klee, Beckmann and Gauguin.

The Essen exhibition is a school of comparative vision, of parting company with an art style that responded with a declining tendency towards naturalism to the atmosphere, the symbolism and the visual stimuli reality lacked.

A radically subjective approach took shape in the landscapes, interiors, portraits and still lives painted in the two and a half decades after Van Gogh's death. That is the central message of the Essen exhibition, apart from striking parallels in composition, such as between Van Gogh's Rhone Barques, 1888, and Derain's Boats in Calliours, 1905. Derain, a fauvist, was mainly interested in reducing the perspective and the surface value of colours.

In Essen the 54 Van Goghs, 19 of which were on show in Amsterdam, are not seen en bloc. They permeate the ensemble of works by him

and his successors like an associative clue of thread. Yet a juxtaposition of styles and subjects is avoided. The emphasis is on the use, development or elimination of fundamental features of Van Gogh's style.

The structural shape of the motifs, the rearrangement of the picture space, the brushmanship and the part played by colour are the chief criteria of hanging at the Folkwang Museum.

The tour as arranged is easy to follow yet contains its fair share of niches and corners that enable visitors to make comparisons and draw parallels.

The Van Gogh paintings draw attention to early exhibitions. Van Gogh exhibitions were held in Paris in 1890, 1896 and 1908 and in Amsterdam, Dresden, Bremen and Hamburg in 1905. In 1912 Van Gogh was exhibited in Cologne. Between 1905 and 1908, the apex of a European preoccupation with Van Gogh, many art-lovers are sure to have said: "Not Van Gogh again!"



'Van Gogh And The Modern, 1890-1914' is an exhibition at the Folkwang Museum in Essen, Federal Republic of Germany, that has earned international acclaim. The Dutch artist's self-portraits are renowned.

Silent Night remains most popular German carol

By K. Rüdiger Durtli

FREIBURG — The German Folk Song Archives, in Freiburg, have amassed half a million files on German popular songs since they were founded 75 years ago. They include about 20,000 tape recordings. The archives, which are closely associated with Freiburg University, thus have the largest stock of folk song material in the German language. The 40,000-volume library is a further gold mine for everyone who is interested in popular songs.

The term folk song was coined by German philo-

sopher and poet Johann Gottfried Herder, 1744-1803, who felt there was a link between poetry, language and the soul of a people. He sought to save the folk song from oblivion. He began compiling his *Stimmen der Völker in Liedern* in 1778. Many other researchers followed in his footsteps, making the folk song popular. They included Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano, who wrote *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*.

The Freiburg archives were founded by Professor John Meier, who, in 1906, hit headlines with his *Kunstlied* in *Volksmund*. Folk songs

had previously been assumed to be traditional and handed down from one generation to the next. He showed that many so-called folk songs had been written and composed by individual poets and musicians and been so popular they went on to become traditional.

A keynote of academic research today is the study of changes popular songs - love songs, miners' songs, carnival songs, marches and the like - have undergone over the years. The archives can draw on an unrivalled stock of irreplaceable old manuscripts. Foreign folk songs are also investigated, espe-

Christmas this year will for most Germans be the first they have ever spent in a united country. French pianist Richard Clayderman is seen rehearsing evergreens with the Schöneberg Boys' Choir outside the Reichstag in Berlin. One of them, *Silent Night*, is Germany's most popular Christmas carol.

folk song. The Freiburg archives are even known in Japan. Which is the most popular German folk song? It is the Christmas carol *Stille*

Nacht, Heilige Nacht (Silent Night), written in Austria 150 years ago and now sung in over 40 languages — German Features.

When asked why the black cast was rejected by the original would-be Japanese promoter, Goldman said, "I don't think he thought he could sell grand opera in Japan with a black company."

Porgy finally debuts in Tokyo, but local blacks not thrilled

By S.L. Bachman

The Associated Press
TOKYO — Porgy And Bess recently debuted in Tokyo after a 12-year delay caused by a Japanese promoter's demand that the opera about American blacks be performed by an all-white cast.

Producer Sherwin M. Goldman, who refused the demand, finally found another promoter willing to bring to Japan the regular troupe of primarily black artists.

Although he called the three-week run that began Jan. 30 a "breakthrough," American blacks who have been fighting racism in Japan gave the musical, and Japan's progress on race issues in general, mixed reviews.

Several American blacks said they were proud of the black artists in the play about Porgy, who falls in love with good-time-girl Bess among friendly but poor neighbors in the bayside slums of Char-

leston, South Carolina, during the depression. But the story of faithlessness, gambling, superstition, murder, poverty and lawlessness also are dangerously close to the stereotyped derogatory images of blacks many say remain widespread in Japan.

"I applaud what the actors are doing. Unfortunately, it reinforces the belief that we are shuffling and we are jiving and we are superstitious," said Julie Judice, a black lawyer who works in Tokyo for a U.S. consulting firm.

Race issues have temporarily soured relations between the United States and Japan on several occasions. Nearly six years ago, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone angered many Americans by saying the high percentage of minorities in the U.S. was responsible for what he believed were overall low U.S. intelligence levels.

Two years later, an elder

statesman in the governing Liberal Democratic Party said U.S. blacks had few qualms about going bankrupt, implying that they walk away from debts.

Last fall, then-Justice Minister Seiryoku Kajiyama compared U.S. blacks with foreign prostitutes in Japan who he said "ruin the atmosphere of the neighborhoods they move into."

The remark prompted an outcry in the United States, including calls for Kajiyama's resignation and for boycotts of Japanese goods. Kajiyama eventually resigned in late December as part of a general cabinet shakeup.

The remarks clearly reflect an entrenched myth in Japan that the nation's success is largely a result of its homogeneous population. Native Japanese account for more than 99 per cent of the population.

Researchers say it is difficult to gauge the pervasiv-

ness of such negative stereotypes.

Blacks living in Japan report a variety of experiences, from difficulty getting jobs to unqualified friendship with Japanese neighbors.

Anti-racism crusaders claim mixed progress. Stereotyped black images on some corporate symbols, and dolls associated with the popular children's story Little Black Sambo, have been dropped or are hard to find, said Toshiji Arita, a founder of the Association to Stop Racism Against Blacks.

But drawings of clown-like "black" figures remain in comic books, which are widely read by youths and adults in Japan.

John Russell, an anthropologist who is studying Japanese attitudes toward blacks, said he finds negative attitudes among older people and ignorance among younger Japanese about race issues in the United States.

He says images of blacks transmitted to Japan through mainstream U.S. media and culture make things worse.

"Most of the images Japan receives are through white media, and Porgy And Bess is an example," he said.

The musical's composer, George Gershwin, and lyricists, Ira Gershwin and Dubose Heyward, were all white. The work was based on a play by Heyward and his wife, also white. Goldman also is white.

For Goldman, the issue came down to when Tokyo audiences would ever have a chance to see what he considers the best U.S. musical.

The opera is almost always played with an all-black cast, following the wishes of the composer, who wrote the music for black singers using the rhythms of jazz, a musical form pioneered by American blacks and initially scorned by many whites, Goldman said.

One problem was Japanese reluctance to take orders from black crew members, Goldman said.

Goldman continued discussions "off and on" with promoters for more than a decade and finally won Japanese acceptance of a black troupe.

Goldman and some of the 73-member cast and crew, including about 20 whites, said they anticipated the worst, but when they arrived in Tokyo, they encountered no overt racism. Others less familiar with Japan expected no racism, and found none.

"I haven't noticed it," said Terry Cook, a bass-baritone who shared the Porgy role with two other singers.

With one exception, birth defects not linked to older mothers

By Randi Hutter Epstein

The Associated Press
LONDON — With the single exception of Down's Syndrome, the risk of bearing children with birth defects does not increase as women age, according to a study published in a British medical journal.

Dr. Patricia Baird, of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, said older women still worry that their age was jeopardising the health of their unborn baby

— even with good results from prenatal chromosomal tests.

"Now, we can reassure them that age isn't a risk factor for other kinds of birth defects," he said.

The University of British Columbia team studied 26,859 babies born between 1966 and 1981 with birth defects of unknown cause. Babies with Down Syndrome were not included in the study because of an established relationship to the

mother's age.

Down's Syndrome occurs in one in 600 births, but increases dramatically to one in 50 births to women 45 years old and older, according to Dr. Margretta Seashore, professor of human genetics and pediatrics at Yale University.

The Canadian study, published in the *Lancet*, found no connection between increasing maternal age and the incidence of other abnormalities.

"Before this study, we didn't know if there were other defects associated strongly with older age we weren't testing for," added Baird, a professor of medical genetics.

In a telephone interview, she said her study shows that older women do not need any other prenatal tests in addition to routine ultrasounds and chromosomal testing.

Yale University's director of obstetrics, Dr. John Hobbins said the study's conclusions

sounded reasonable.

He said many birth defects thought to be associated with age were probably a result of poor nutrition.

"The old mothers of yesterday are very different from the yuppie-types who put off having babies because of careers," Hobbins said. "Older women today are healthier and seek prenatal care."

Among the 43 categories of birth defects in the Canadian study, none showed an in-

creased incidence with age.

Two kinds of defects — patent ductus arteriosus, a heart abnormality, and hypertrophic pyloric stenosis, a stomach defect — were more common among younger mothers. Also, congenital dislocatable hip occurred most frequently with 30-year-old mothers.

All of these defects are very rare, occurring in less than 40 in 10,000 births. But Irene Yee, the statistician for the Canadian team, said the

changes were statistically significant.

The heart defect decreased from slightly more than 20 babies in 10,000 births to women younger than 25, to 18 babies in 10,000 births among women older than 40. The stomach defect drops from about 40 babies in 10,000 births to younger women, to 15 babies in 10,000 births to older mothers.

For congenital hip dislocations, the rate peaked for

30-year-old women with 10 cases in 10,000 births. Less than 5 cases in 10,000 births occurred to women younger than 20 and older than 40.

Baird said she could not explain why those defects were more common with certain ages of mothers, but she suspected the mother's hormones affect the way the fetus grows.

Hobbins said he believed the three purportedly age-linked defects were statistical quirks.

Heavy workouts may leave you sick; lighter ones may make you better

By Ira Dreyfuss

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Being fit enough to run 10 miles (16 kilometres) a day, every day, in the rain, snow and cold could make you a hero to the running club, but it may not impress a germ. One expert thinks tough workouts may lower your resistance to dis-

ease.

Intense aerobic workouts may increase the body's production of hormones that depress the immune system, said David C. Nieman, an associate professor in the Department of Health, Leisure and Exercise Science at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina.

On the other hand, moder-

ate aerobic activities such as walking can increase the activity of cells that feast on bacteria and viruses, making you better able to resist disease, Nieman said.

While Nieman was at Loma Linda University in California, he and his colleagues looked at how many of the 2,300 runners who had completed the Los Angeles

Marathon in 1987 came down with a cold or the flu.

More than 13 per cent were sick within a week, compared with 2 per cent of those who trained but didn't compete, Nieman said.

And it's not simply the stress of competition, the researcher said. In the two months before the race, approximately 40 per cent got

sick. Those who trained more than 60 miles (96 kilometres) a week had twice the risk of those who trained less than 20 miles (32 kilometres) a week, he said.

The cause could be hormonal, Nieman said. Ten experienced runners who worked out for 3 hours at their fastest marathon pace had higher levels of the hormone

cortisol — close to 60 per cent above their pretest levels, he said.

Cortisol is valuable for people who do long, hard exercise, because it fights inflammation. But it also depresses the activity of natural killer cells, which destroy virus-infected cells, Nieman said. His work with the 10 experienced runners, while

preliminary, indicated that natural killer cell activity fell by more than 30 per cent for almost 6 hours.

He advises serious athletes to do no more than two workouts a week at their hardest level, to give the immune system time to recover, and to stay away from contagious sick people.

However, exercisers who don't work out so hard don't risk weakening their immune systems as they attempt to improve their fitness, Nieman said.

"The 20-30 minute type of thing, we don't feel that's long enough to worry about," he said. "I don't think the public should be at all concerned about short jogs."

Smoking linked to stroke, aging of brain arteries

By Paul Raeburn

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Cigarette smoking speeds deterioration of arteries that supply the brain and quadruples the risk of one kind of stroke, two studies show.

A 59-year-old who smokes two packs of cigarettes a day has artery damage comparable to a light smoker 10 years older, said Dr. Robert Dempsey, a neurosurgeon at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He spoke at the American Heart Association's annual meeting in

stroke. In a separate study, researchers found those who smoked a pack a day or less were four times as likely as non-smokers to suffer from the form of stroke called subarachnoid hemorrhage, which occurs primarily in people younger than 65 and more commonly in women. It has a high death rate.

Those who smoked more than a pack a day had up to 11 times the risk of subarachnoid hemorrhages, which account for 7 per cent of the 50,000 strokes suffered by Americans each year. Dr. Will Longstreth, the study's author, concluded that smoking is responsible for about 38 per cent of all subarachnoid hemorrhages.

Longstreth said the risk is especially high within three hours of smoking a cigarette. But smokers continue to have a higher risk of this kind of stroke even years after giving up cigarettes, he said.

"If you stop smoking now you're looking at a 10-year period of time until your risk is what it is in someone who's never smoked," said Long-

streth, a neurologist at the University of Washington in Seattle.

His findings based on study of 149 stroke victims and 149 people of similar backgrounds who had not had strokes.

He said more than 8,000 such strokes could be prevented each year in the United States if people stop smoking.

In the other study, Dempsey made use of a special ultrasound scanner to determine the thickness of waxy deposits building up inside the carotid artery, one of the principal supplies of blood to the brain.

These deposits can ultimately diminish or block blood flow to parts of the brain, causing strokes.

Dempsey found in an examination of 790 patients that the thickness of the deposits, called plaques, was directly related to the number of cigarettes smoked over a lifetime.

"Heavy smokers have much more plaque in their carotid arteries than non-smokers," he said.

Diabetes and high blood pressure were also linked to the formation of plaques, but smoking was a greater risk factor than either of those, Dempsey said.

Several studies have identified smoking as a possible risk factor for strokes, but the link has not yet been shown as clearly as the link between smoking and heart disease, researchers said.

Statistics collected by the Framingham Heart Study in Massachusetts suggest that smoking raises the risk of stroke by 40 per cent in men and 60 per cent in women.

Asbestos fatalities triple in decade

By Wilson Da Silva

Reuter

SYDNEY — Deaths from asbestos-related cancer have nearly tripled in the past decade in Australia, according to the world's most exhaustive study of mesothelioma.

The cancer claimed 314 Australian lives in 1990 compared with 110 in 1981 and researchers said similar rates are likely to be found in many other countries, especially in the developed world.

A total of 1,455 Australians have died in the past decade.

"It's common to all countries where there was heavy industrial use of asbestos," Dr. Jim Leigh, whose

National Institute Occupational Health and Safety conducted the study, told Reuters.

Results of the six-year study will be published in the U.S. scientific journal *Cancer* in April. Mesothelioma appears mostly in the lungs, but also occurs in the lining of the heart and abdomen.

Leigh said rates for the disease had yet to peak and would continue to claim more lives in the future.

"The epidemic is really related to what happened in the past," he said. "The peak will be reached some time in 2010. The rate of increase in the next few years won't be as high... (but) we expect a

further 6,000 cases over the next 20 years."

The study also shows that white asbestos, formerly suspected of being benign, also produces cancer. Previously blue asbestos was believed to be the main cause of mesothelioma.

The cancer takes an average 35 years after exposure to show, and nearly all sufferers die within a year of being diagnosed.

Researchers said the study, which examined every asbestos death in Australia in the past 10 years, was the most extensive of its kind in the world.

It shows that death rates jumped 20 per cent from 1989 to 1990, or 26.3 per million

men a year, making the rate the second-highest after that for South African white men.

This compares with 14.7 per million men in Denmark, 15.3 per million in Britain and 20.9 per million in the Netherlands, according to the most recent figures available.

Women in most countries show very low rates, backing the belief that the disease is related to the workplace.

Asbestos, prized for its fire-retardant qualities, was a common component in many building materials. A 1988 survey of Canberra houses found 2,000 has asbestos sprayed in liquid form into their roofs between 1968 and 1978 for insulation.

Study questions usefulness of drug for multiple sclerosis

NEW YORK (AP) — Researchers have said that a widely used investigational drug for multiple sclerosis (MS) worked no better than a placebo in a new study.

The drug, Cyclophosphamide, was tested for its ability to slow progression of the disease in 168 patients. A blood-cleansing treatment called plasmapheresis also failed to work better than a sham treatment.

"Based on these results, we feel we can't recommend these treatments" to patients with progressive multiple sclerosis, said Dr. John Noseworthy, who directed the research at nine Canadian medical centres.

But Dr. Howard L. Weiner of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, whose work has found Cyclophosphamide to be useful, said the new study did find a

temporary benefit. And he has found that a dosing schedule different from that used in the new study prolongs the drug's effectiveness, he said.

The study does not "negate the positive effect we've seen in using the drug" he said. The new study's authors said the temporary benefit they found was insignificant.

Noseworthy, now an associate professor of neurology at the Mayo Clinic, and co-authors presented the results in the recent issue of the *Lancet*, a British medical

journal.

An estimated 250,000 Americans have multiple sclerosis, a potentially crippling condition that can produce weakness, difficulty in coordination, dizziness and loss of balance. The disease is generally thought to result from a misguided attack on nerve tissue by the body's disease-fighting immune system.

The new study included patients with progressive disease, which affects some 30 per cent to 40 per cent of

multiple sclerosis patients.

Cyclophosphamide is one of several treatments under study that are aimed at easing the disease by suppressing the overall immune system. Its side effects can include infertility, increased risk of cancer later in life, bladder damage, nausea and hair loss.

Weiner said he does not consider Cyclophosphamide "the answer to MS," but only a temporary measure while researchers develop better drugs.

Although some insurers cover its use for multiple sclerosis, neurologists generally never considered it a proven therapy for the disease, said Stephen Reingold, vice president for research and medical programmes of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Researchers devise 1st treatment to stop stroke as it happens

By Paul Raeburn

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A new treatment in which drugs are injected into the brain while a stroke occurs has prevented serious disability in 70 per cent of patients tested, researchers say.

The treatment is one of several new techniques that allow researchers to insert medical instruments into the brain to treat ailing blood vessels, said Dr. Jacques Theron, who conducted the study.

He has treated 54 patients with clot-dissolving drugs to eliminate blockages that deprive parts of the brain of blood, causing strokes, he said Thursday at the American Heart Association's annual stroke meeting.

Stroke are the third-leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of disability, the Heart Association says.

Theron, a radiologist at the University of Caen in France, is moving soon to the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

The clot-dissolving drugs are believed through a narrow tube called a catheter, inserted into the groin and threaded through blood vessels to the brain, he said.

His 70-per cent success rate opens a new field of research, said Dr. Linda Sternau, a neurosurgeon at the University of Miami.

"Being able to introduce a catheter right to where the injury is and take care of it is going to revolutionise treatment of stroke," Sternau

said. "We've been able to get inside the brain only very recently," within the past four years, said Dr. L. Nick Hopkins, a neurosurgeon at the State University of New York in Buffalo.

"Until recently the only thing we could do was open the head in a major operative procedure," he said.

The new techniques reduce the risk and the complications associated with trying to treat blood vessel disorders in the brain, he said.

Hopkins has used a catheter to treat malformed brain blood vessels that can suddenly burst, producing a stroke.

He injects clot-forming substances into the malformations to try to seal them off, so blood cannot escape.

In tests with 50 patients, 47 have shown significant improvement, simplifying surgery and reducing the risk of surgical complications, he said.

Three patients improved to the point where they no longer required surgery, he said.

About 500,000 Americans suffer from strokes each year, the Heart Association says, and 150,000 die.

Of the 3 million Americans who have survived strokes, 31 per cent are so disabled they cannot care for themselves without help, the Heart Association says.

Hopkins has also begun using catheters and clot-forming agents to treat people with aneurysms, weakened areas in blood vessel walls that are the leading cause of strokes in young people, he said.

Competing heart drugs can all save more lives

ATLANTA (AP) — Three competing clot-dissolving drugs all save lives up to 12 hours after a heart attack and should be given to many more patients than are now receiving them, a study shows.

The study of some 40,000 patients from nearly 1,000 hospitals in the United States and around the world is the largest and most definitive study yet on the effectiveness of the drugs, said one of the study's directors, Dr. Rory Collins of Oxford University in England.

The results confirm and

amplify the findings of a large-scale Italian study reported earlier, and they should help end a high-stakes dispute over which clot dissolver is best, Collins said.

"In terms of mortality, there is no difference," he said.

He discussed the findings at the recent annual meeting of the American College of Cardiology.

The key finding, he said, is that giving clot-dissolving drugs after a heart attack "works, and it works in a much wider range of patients than doctors thought."

By Paul Rezer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Georgetown University Hospital officials have said doctors will test a machine to shrink enlarged prostates. The machine may offer an alternative to surgery, doctors said.

About half of men over age 50 suffer from enlarged prostates.

The machine, called the Prostatron, uses a miniature microwave antenna to deliver up to 130 degrees F (54 degrees C) of heat to tissues in an enlarged prostate. The heat causes the gland to shrink.

Jean-Luc Boulnois, presi-

dent of Technomed International Inc., the firm that developed Prostatron, said the device is now being used routinely in five European countries and is undergoing clinical trials in six other countries.

Dr. John Lynch, chief of urological surgery at Georgetown University, said the Prostatron will be used experimentally on patients starting in about six weeks. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the device for clinical trials, he said.

The physician said it could substantially reduce medical care costs for thousands of patients annually.

The prostate is a walnut-

sized gland in men that surrounds a portion of the Urethra, the duct that carries urine from the bladder to the penis. This gland's normal function is to produce the fluid portion of semen.

Most middle aged men experience some prostate enlargement, for unknown reasons, and in about half of all men over 50 the conditions is serious enough to cause difficult or painful urination.

Lynch said that currently the accepted method of treatment in the United States is a surgical procedure called transurethral resection.

"This requires a general anesthesia and three to five

days in the hospital," said Lynch. "There are about 400,000 of these procedures performed annually in this country and it is the second leading procedure paid by" National Health Insurance.

He said the cost of prostate surgery is \$8,000 to \$12,000.

The Prostatron may be able to get the same results in many patients for about a third of the cost, he said. The Prostatron procedure is performed on an outpatient basis and no general anesthesia is required, said Lynch.

The Prostatron procedure involves threading and instrumented catheter up the urethra until a tiny microwave antenna is positioned at the centre of the prostate.

When the microwave is activated, it causes some of the prostate cells to be killed by heat. A cooling system in the catheter prevents cells in the urethra from being damaged.

Dr. Simon Carter, a British physician who has used the Prostatron experimentally on 100 patients in London, said that the procedure seems to be "easily tolerated."

Many of his patients, he said, are able to drive home following the hour-long procedure.

About 80 per cent of his patients, said Carter, have shown "marked improvement" in urinary function.

The only side effect found so far, he said is that in some patients the heat-treated

prostate will swell and cause urination problems to increase for a few hours. Some patients, said Carter, are unable to pass urine altogether and a catheter to drain the bladder is inserted for a day.

Carter said that the clinical trials have not yet determined if use of the Prostatron will affect male fertility by causing changes in the seminal fluid produced by the prostate.

Lynch said that under an FDA programme, four other university hospitals in the U.S. will also test the Prostatron. He said he would not name the other universities because they have not yet made their own announcements.

Basra

(Continued from page 1)

analysts, relying mainly on aerial surveillance, said Wednesday: "We don't see active resistance. The civil unrest is noticeably less — fewer weapons being fired, fewer vehicles needed for crowd control."

The sources said earlier that tank forces of the loyalist guardsmen and rebellious army unit arrayed against each other in Basra amounted to the equivalent of two brigades — about 4,000 to 5,000 soldiers backed by tanks.

The sources, who requested anonymity, said the rebellion had flared anew in the Shi'ite Muslim city of Karbala Wednesday. Iraqi opposition spokesmen claimed Tuesday that Saddam's opponents had seized Karbala and Najaf, another holy Shi'ite shrine city about 160 kilometres south of Baghdad.

In Karbala, "there are fires in buildings and other indications of civil unrest. A Republican Guard unit is moving toward Karbala and we assume it's going there to deal with that situation," said one of the U.S. sources.

Radio Baghdad, monitored in Nicosia, did not say why interior minister Mohammad Abdi Wahhab was sacked Tuesday, but the action coincided with the spreading insurrection.

Abdul Wahhab was in charge of Saddam's repressive internal security and domestic intelligence apparatus.

He was replaced by Ali Hassan Al Majid, Saddam's cousin, who served as governor of Kuwait after it was annexed by Iraq.

In denying reports of his death, Uday Hussein attacked Western news media that published reports that he had been killed in Basra. Uday called them "nothing but stray dogs barking."

Iran said Wednesday it is not aiding Iraqi Shi'ite Muslims who say they're fighting to carve out an Islamic republic in the south of their country.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said after meeting Soviet envoy Alexander Belongov in Tehran that Iran "completely rejects" reports that it is involved in "the upheaval in Iraq."

Iran's state-run television network, monitored in Nicosia, quoted him as saying: "The Islamic Republic will not interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq or any other country."

The Tehran Times daily, which usually reflects the thinking of President Hashemi Rafsanjani, said in an editorial Wednesday: "The disintegration of Iraq cannot be accepted under any circumstances."

The English-language newspaper noted that the turmoil in Shi'ite-dominated southern Iraq, along with a Kurdish rebellion in the north, "may suggest an imminent civil war which can only be a disaster for the Iraqi people."

The Iranians are allowing Hojatoleslam Mohammad Bakr Al Hakim, leader of an Iran-based Iraqi Shi'ite movement opposed to Saddam, to broadcast statements from Tehran proclaiming the Shi'ites are battling to establish an Islamic state in southern Iraq.

But analysts believe that government support for Hakim has waned as Iran seeks to shed its pariah image and that they letting him broadcast primarily to mollify Iranian radicals who still back him.

Soviet foreign ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin said there was no direct link between Belongov's visit to Iran and the internal situation in Iraq.

He said Belongov was expected to meet Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and other officials, in the context of broad consultations with many interested countries on the Gulf situation.

The Kurdish Socialist Party said the Iraqi President's appointment of his cousin Ali Hassan Al Majid as interior minister proved his determination to quell the Kurdish rebellion.

Adnan Mufti, Paris-based spokesman for the party, one of six political groups fighting for autonomy for Iraqi Kurds, said: "He will try to destroy the people. He is known by everyone in Kurdistan and Iraq as a terrorist and very dangerous."

School to remain closed

Meanwhile, Iraq's schools and universities, closed when the Gulf war started on Jan. 17, will remain closed indefinitely, the education ministry said in a statement broadcast on Radio Baghdad on Wednesday.

Last Saturday, the ministry said they would be reopened on March 9. But the statement on Wednesday said the postponement was needed to "organise transport and other necessities."

Kuwait

(Continued from page 1)

and other foreigners would be expelled for collaborating with the Iraqis during the seven-month occupation.

Foreigners, including Palesti-

nians, make up an estimated 60 per cent of the nation's 1.7 million population.

"I want to put an end to the rumors in Kuwait and outside Kuwait that the security authorities will 'try to arrest the Palestinians, try to punish the Palestinians," said the prince.

"We never thought to do so," he said. "I think that most of the Palestinians did help the Kuwaitis during the Iraqi occupation, and we never thought to start a policy of trying to deport the Palestinians or arresting the Palestinians."

The prince also tried to smooth over the question of elections, a major issue before the Iraqi invasion on Aug. 2.

The country's ruler, Emir Jaber Al Sabah, dissolved the parliament in 1986 on grounds of national security problems caused by the Iran-Iraq war and local unrest.

Elections were scheduled for last year, but never happened because of promised boycotts by Kuwaiti political opposition forces, followed by Iraq's invasion.

But the prince on Wednesday promised elections will be held, and urged residents not to "believe rumors that the government is changing its mind. This is not true. We have promised the Kuwaiti people, and we keep our promises."

Asked when the emir will return, the crown prince said Kuwait's ruler will return "very soon" from Taif, Saudi Arabia, where he fled after the invasion. The prince himself came back Monday.

Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, Kuwait's minister for cabinet affairs, told reporters the emir will return "hopefully within ten days, plus or minus."

The prince, whose palace was burned down during the invasion, held the news conference and meeting with Mr. John Major in the home of a wealthy Kuwaiti 16 kilometres from the centre of town.

Before beginning the private meeting, the British prime minister told reporters a wide range of matters would be discussed, including the problems of rebuilding Kuwait city.

At the U.N. headquarters in New York, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's chief representative said Tuesday he had complained to the president of the Security Council about the treatment of Palestinians in Kuwait.

"It is a completely unlawful action, a general situation of fear with the detention of hundreds of Palestinians, injuries and, in special cases, deaths," Dr. Nasser Al Kidwa told reporters.

Amnesty International appealed on Tuesday for protection of Palestinians and others, saying it had reports of scores of arrests of Palestinians, Sudanese and Egyptians suspected of having cooperated with Iraq.

Kidwa said he did not ask the council to take action but said consultations and discussions with the Kuwaiti ambassador were in order.

"It's now up to the president," he said referring to Austria's ambassador, Peter Hohenfellner, who heads the 15-nation body this month.

Kidwa said Kuwaitis and foreign troops in Kuwait had the obligation of guaranteeing the rule of law and preventing summary justice in the streets.

He said any Palestinian who harmed civilians, especially Kuwaiti civilians, was in the wrong and had to be condemned.

"However, I cannot condemn anybody because of his or her political position, even if this position was supporting Iraq or the Iraqi presence in Kuwait," he said.

He said some Kuwaitis were trying to portray everyone who did not oppose Iraq as an "ugly collaborator which is not true."

Iraq's U.N. envoy said on Tuesday that Baghdad was committed to releasing all foreigners held in Iraq, including Kuwaitis.

But ambassador Abdul Amir Al Anbari said he had no information on the number of Kuwaitis held and could not verify Kuwait's assertion that 33,000 people had been abducted by Iraqis.

Anbari, in answer to questions by reporters, said it was difficult to differentiate "between those who came in on their own or those who lived in Iraq before the crisis or those taken by Iraqi army or some other authorities."

But he said Iraq would "expedite to remove all the obstacles as soon as possible."

"I don't think there will be a problem in terms of repatriating or releasing anyone who is prepared to leave the country," he said.

Asked about the 25 journalists missing in southern Iraq, Anbari said he had no first-hand knowledge of the situation but he was confident they would be found.

"Now, with military authorities in control in Basra, I hope it is possible for us to verify (in a few days) and ensure the safety of every foreigner," he said.

Iraq on Wednesday promised to return "as soon as possible" to Kuwait billions of dollars worth of gold, currency, museum antiquities and civilian aircraft that it confiscated.

A letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said "the competent Iraqi authorities are prepared to hand over this property as soon as possible," and asked the U.N. Security Council and secretary-general for guidance on the transfer.

The Iraqi letter did not specify the value of any of the categories it cited.

In addition, Iraqi troops carried off many other types of valuables not mentioned in Aziz's letter.

Kuwaiti citizens say that the emirate was stripped of almost everything of value that was portable, down to the traffic control lights on the streets.

Kuwait's U.N. ambassador, Mohammad Abul Hasan, said Tuesday that an international tribunal to assess war reparations should be set up, and said his government's claims against Iraq would start at \$12 billion to 15 billion.

U.S. allies

(Continued from page 1)

Britain welcomed the news.

"We welcome the efforts by the states in the Gulf Cooperation Council, Syria and Egypt to enhance the security in the region," the Foreign Office said.

"We have consistently made clear that it is for the states of the region themselves to take the lead on this issue."

Visiting troops in Kuwait, British Prime Minister John Major reiterated Wednesday that he did not want to keep British forces in the Gulf indefinitely.

France also backed the proposals for an Arab peacekeeping force in the Gulf shortly after they were made public in Damascus.

Government spokesman Louis Le Penec quoted Foreign Minister Roland Dumas in a cabinet meeting as "indicating France supported the principle of an Arab buffer force as proposed by the eight countries concerned."

Egyptian hopes

Meanwhile, Egypt, which supplied Iraq with millions of dollars worth of weapons before the Gulf war, hopes its Gulf Arab allies will now become Cairo's main arms customers, officials and experts said Wednesday.

"There is an interest in Egyptian-made ground-borne equipment which can easily fit in Gulf Arab armies," a Europe-based arms expert said.

"The post-war atmosphere makes it probable they will buy our weapons which proved their efficiency on the battle field. Our weapons are designed to suit the weather and nature of the region," a senior Egyptian official said.

Egypt, the only Arab state with an advanced arms industry, sold Iraq weapons including short-range missiles, ammunition and spare parts during its 1980-88 war with Iran.

Among a variety of weapons Egypt, Washington's strongest Arab ally, can offer is the ultra-high-tech U.S.-designed M1A1 Abrams tank which proved its worth in the Gulf war. It is due to mid-1992.

Art 'hanged' on the wall

By Saleemeh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With all eyes focused on the Gulf war, it was no surprise that the works of 45 artists, on show for the past four weeks at the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation, have gone almost unnoticed. Mona Deeb, the gallery's manager, says the few visitors were mainly artists who came to chat with their colleagues and see their works.

Although proceeds from the exhibition are dedicated for Arab civilian victims of the Gulf war, art, it seems, has itself become one of the victims of the war.

Very few paintings were sold. A painting by an artist such as Fakhrelnissa Zaid, on sale for only JD 400, remained unsold on Wednesday. The artist is one of the few internationally-renowned Arab artists. According to Mona Deeb, people showed no interest. Some bought a painting to help the victims of the war rather than because of their love for art.

One of the most noted works on show was that by Aziz Ammoura, an impressionist oil colour of Baghdad's art academy garden, dated 1969. The artist, who teaches art at Yarmouk University, studied at the Baghdad academy, and the well-known Iraqi artist Fa'eq Hassan, put the final touches to the painting by Ammoura. It was sold for JD 1,000, understandably the highest price at the exhibition, perhaps demonstrating an emotional and political interest as much as an artistic appreciation for the well-established artist.

"With the proceeds we got so far, we may not be able to help more than two or three families," Mona said. "It is much worse than we expected."

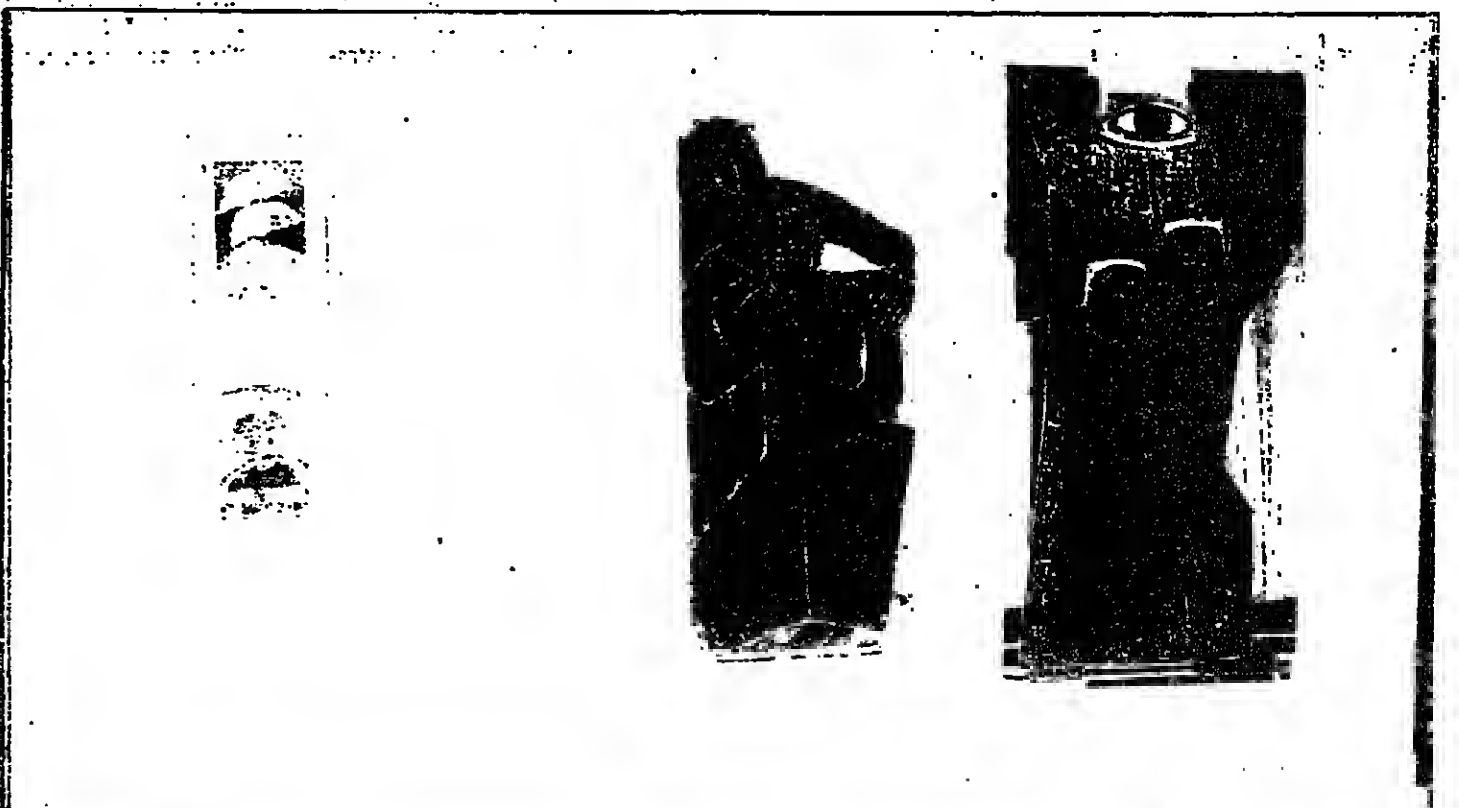
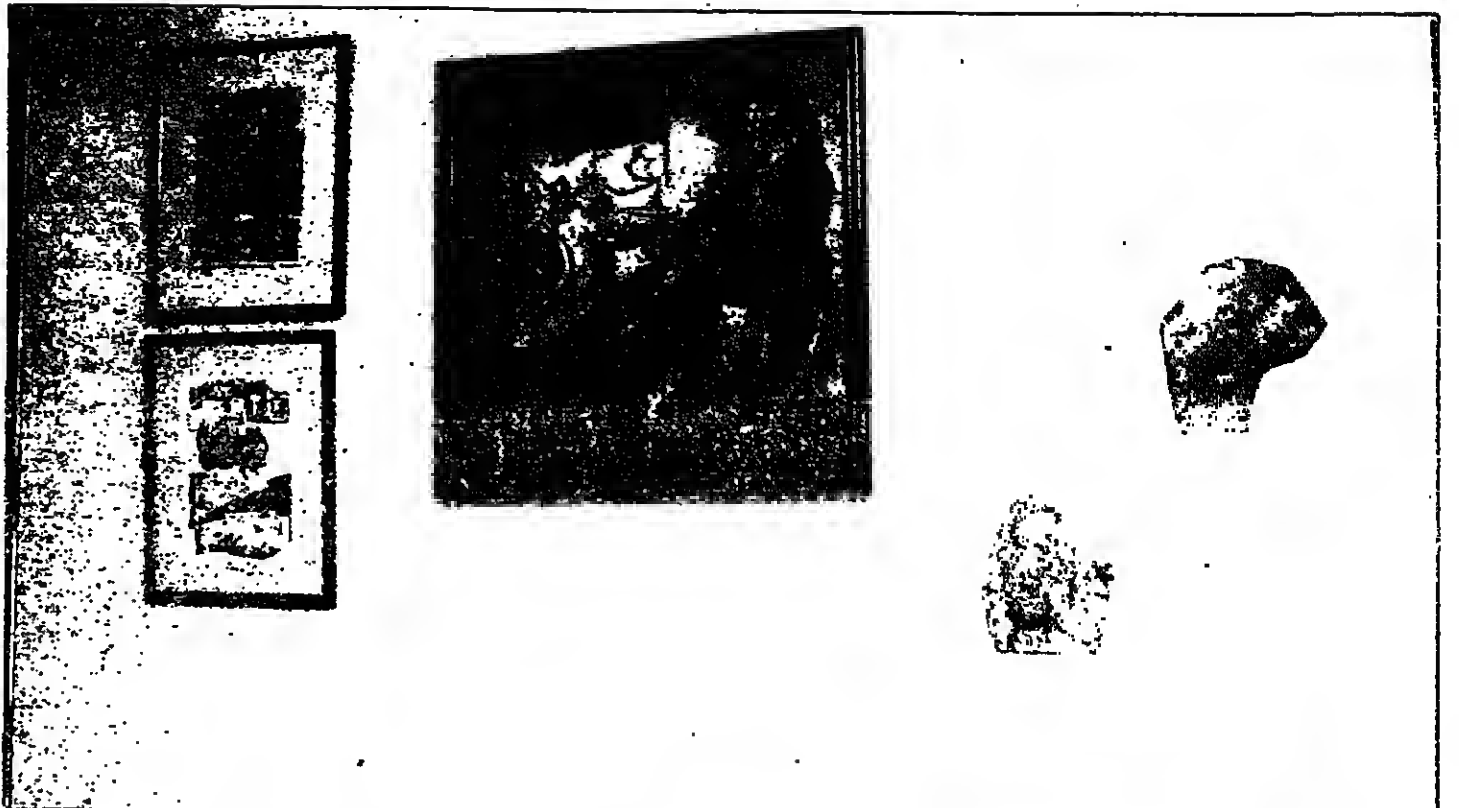
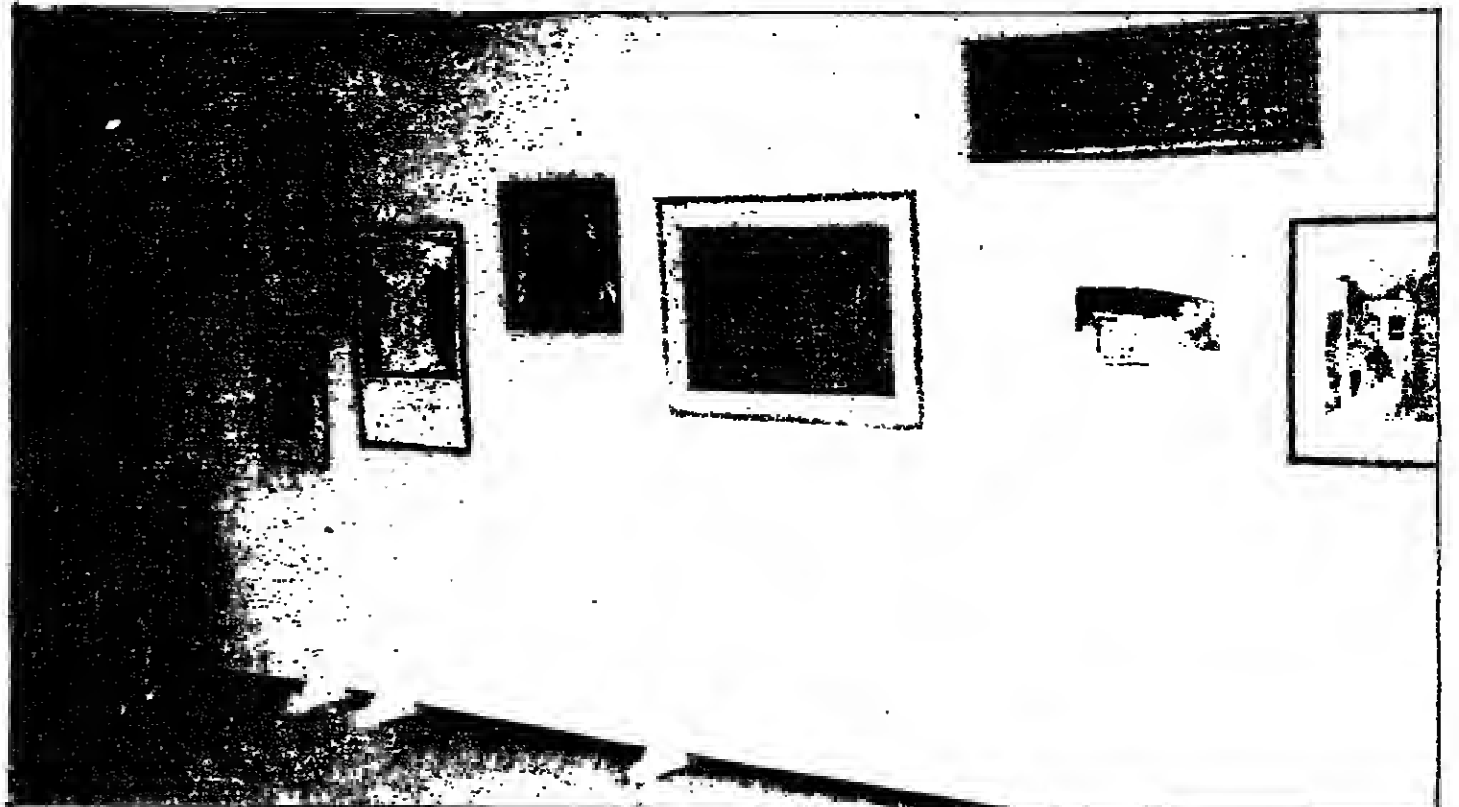
The exhibition embraces works by well-known and established Jordanian artists such as Yasser Dwaik, Ahmad Na'wash, Ammar Khamash, Ali Jabri, Princess Wijdan Ali, Samer Tabba', Adnan Yahya and Mahmood Taha. Iraqi artist Himat Mohammad Ali displayed two paintings.

All of the paintings on exhibit were done before the Gulf war started except for one by Samia Zarn, a mixed media with a visible "Allah Akbar" inscription.

Like most works of art, good or bad, the paintings at the Shoman Foundation will survive the Gulf crisis and will probably survive many peoples and nations, wars and invasions. It was reported that the Iraqis took the contents of the Kuwait museum with them to Baghdad when they annexed the emirate. Now they are being returned. Throughout the first and second world wars, paintings and other works of art have travelled extensively, in war and in peace, from nation to nation. The world changed a great deal since the first artists produced what continues to be enjoyed until this very day.

But the little-noticed exhibition now at the Shoman Foundation, was an attempt to show sympathy for those who suffered as a result of the war against Iraq, not only the state but also the symbol of Arab culture and the cradle of civilisation which transcends governments and wars.

The exhibition, which opens daily between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on Thursdays, will end on March 14. But the paintings themselves will most certainly survive many more days wherever they may be.



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Sabatini, Graf advance in Florida

BOCA RATON, Florida (AP) — Gabriela Sabatini says the best time to face her is early in a tournament.

Erika Delone might disagree. She met the second-seeded Sabatini in Tuesday's second round of the Virginia Slims of Florida and lost 6-2, 6-2.

"Right now I have to worry more about first matches than the others," Sabatini said, "because then I start to get confidence, and I play better."

In her first match since early February — she had an opening-round bye — Sabatini showed no signs of rust. She served well and put her groundstrokes consistently in the corners.

"I had control of the match all the time," she said.

Top seed Steffi Graf won by a walkover when her scheduled opponent, Cecilia Duhilman of Sweden, had to default because of illness. Reports from tournament officials said she suffered

from food poisoning were later retracted.

Graf is seeking her first title this year.

Claudia Porwik of Germany pulled off the day's biggest surprise by winning the final eight points to beat fifth-seeded Conchita Martinez of Spain 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.

"I wasn't playing very well at all," Martinez said. "She was coming all the time to the net, and it was very difficult to pass her."

No. 7 Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union beat Catherine Suire of France 7-4, (7-4), 6-4. No. 9 Helen Kelesi of Canada beat Cathy Caverzasio of Italy 6-1, 3-6, 6-2.

The fourth-ranked Sabatini is off to a fast start this year. She has a 10-1 record and beat Martina Navratilova to win the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo last month.

"I don't feel much pressure

right now," the Argentine said. "I've won this tournament, and I think I'm ready to win it again."

Sabatini beat Jennifer Capriati in last year's finals and beat Graf for the 1988 title.

Delone, an 18-year-old amateur who plans to enroll at Harvard in September, gave Sabatini some problems early in their first-ever meeting. Then Sabatini won eight consecutive games.

"She surprised me a little bit," Sabatini said. "If I left the ball short, she started coming to the net and hitting the ball hard. I knew I had hit the ball deep."

Sabatini has won her two meetings with Graf, including a third-round match at Tokyo decided by a final-set tiebreaker. They could square off again in Sunday's finals.

"I'm going to keep playing her the same way," Sabatini said. "She's probably going to try something different."

Meanwhile, for 3½ years, Graf was the best. Sometimes she was even better than that.

"At one stage, I was invincible," she said. "I was not even close to being beaten."

But her reign is nearly over. Graf's record 186-week stay as the no. 1-ranked player in women's tennis will end Monday.

"I'm sure I'm not happy about it," she said. "But I have no problems dealing with it."

The German will fall to no. 2 even if she wins the Virginia Slims of Florida tournament. Yugoslavia's Monica Seles, who is skipping the event, will take over the top spot because her second-round loss in last year's tournament at Boca Raton will no longer count in the computer rankings.

Top-ranked since Aug. 17, 1987, Graf is trying to come out of a slump that began after she broke her right thumb in a skiing accident 13 months ago.

Dutch, Czech take 1st gold in Winter University Games

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — Dutch speed skater Carla Zijlstra and Czechoslovak giant slalom skier Peter Jurko gave their countries their first gold medals Wednesday in the Winter University Games.

Japan and the Soviet Union each added one more gold to their collections.

With gold medals to be decided Wednesday evening, in women's singles figure skating and ice dancing, Japan led in the medal standing with nine golds on the fourth day of competition. The Soviets stood with four golds.

Zijlstra won the women's 3,000-metre speed skating race in 4 minutes, 40.85 seconds, edging Romanian Mihaela Dascalu by 0.05 seconds. Japan's Mie Ohnishi was third in 4:41.02.

Jurko put together runs of 1:01.82 and 1:01.60 for a winning total of 2:12.12 in the men's giant slalom, on a 1,210-metre (1,092-

foot) course with 15 gates.

American Toni Standerer placed second in 2:13.11, followed by Japan's Keiji Oshigiri in 2:13.60.

Led by Naoto Itoh, a four-man Japanese team won the gold medal in the men's normal hill team ski jumping with a total of 511.7 points. The Soviet team, led by Pavel Kostov, won the silver medal with 499.7, followed by

Austria, led by Franz Wiegler, with 471.7.

The Soviet Union stopped Japan's winning streak in cross-country ski races, finishing first in the women's 3 x 5-kilometres relay in 41 minutes, 39.3 seconds.

Japan, which had won all four cross-country races through Tuesday, had to settle for the silver medal in 42:21.0. Poland took the bronze medal in 42:22.1.

Egypt qualifies for Junior World Cup soccer finals

ISMAILIA (R) — Egypt beat Ghana 1-0 Tuesday to qualify for the Junior World Cup Soccer finals in June and reach the final of the African Championship.

Ghana, playing against a home side cheered by thousands of fans, played solidly in the first half but could not score.

Mustafa Sadeq scored Egypt's

winner from a penalty 15 minutes into the second half.

Ivory Coast beat Zambia in a penalty shootout in the other semifinal Monday and secured Africa's other place in the World Cup finals to be held in Portugal.

Egypt and Ivory Coast meet Friday to decide which side will become Africa's champions.

Ruddock predicts knock out for Tyson

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Canadian Donovan "Razor" Ruddock predicts he'll knock out Mike Tyson in their March 18 heavyweight bout, but he didn't go so far as naming the round.

"I have a lot of confidence in my boxing ability and also my power," Ruddock said Tuesday during a press conference with Tyson. "I don't know what I'll do, but I'll do what I have to do."

The two are scheduled for a 12-round fight at the Mirage in Las Vegas.

Ruddock accused Tyson of ducking out of a fight against him in November 1989, when the then-champion had signed to fight Ruddock at Edmonton. The bout was cancelled when Tyson's camp said he was suffering from a lung virus.

"I felt Mike was ducking me," Ruddock said. "I believe it. We gave him the opportunity to postpone, not cancel."

Tyson lost his title to Buster Douglas on Feb. 11, 1990, his only loss in 40 fights, including 35 knockouts.

"I'm glad to be in proper shape now," he said. "I hope you all get to see the fight because you won't forget me for a long time. I'll do well. I'm ready for anybody, anytime now."

Tyson, 24, is recognised as the no. 1 contender by the World Boxing Association, World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation.

Ruddock is 25-1-1 with 18 knockouts. With his only loss coming in 1985, the 27-year-old is

rated no. 2 by the three boxing organisations.

Ruddock, at 6-foot-3, expects to weigh about 230 for the bout. The 5-foot-11 manager, Don King, used the occasion to lambast champion Evander Holyfield for fighting George Foreman in what the promoter called "a flimsy disguise to avoid Tyson."

"He'll find his fists full of 270-pound jolly brown giant," King said. "Foreman is the real draw in that fight. Holyfield couldn't draw flies in a dump."

King also announced that he, Tyson and super lightweight champ Julio Cesar Chavez of Mexico, who also appears on the card, will donate \$250,000 from their fights to the USO and the American Red Cross.

Italy praised for move to use professional referees

LONDON (R) — FIFA have applauded the Italian Soccer League for taking the lead in deciding to employ professional referees, and say they expect other countries to follow.

Sepp Blatter, the International Football Federation (FIFA) general secretary, who criticised refereeing standards at last year's World Cup, said: "Italy is acting as a guiding light for others by instituting professional referees."

"Success can, however, only be achieved if the referees themselves take that mental stride towards professionalism," he said in the FIFA newsletter issued this week.

The Italian soccer authorities decided last month to employ 40 professional referees for first and second division matches in the 1993-4 season.

They will earn between 60 million lire (\$2,000) and 100 million (\$3,000) a year, train five times a week, but still be allowed to do other jobs.

Italy's Football Association President Antonio Matarrese said referees were amateurs, but the game made increasing demands on them, especially top international referees.

"We can't continue to make them (referees) live in a hybrid situation," he said.

FIFA's Referees' Committee predicted this week that countries with large professional leagues were likely to follow the Italian example.

Following mounting criticism of referees, who Blatter said had not been able to keep up as soccer evolved both athletically and tactically, FIFA have begun looking at ways of improving standards.

Edberg, McEnroe score wins in Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (AP) — Top-seeded Steffen Edberg breezed past Argentina's Martin Jaite 6-3, 6-2 Tuesday in the second round of the Newsweek Champions Cup.

Edberg, the tournament's defending champion, saved all three break points Jaite had against him and never lost his serve.

"It ended up to be good for me," Edberg said. "Everything worked. I served good. I hit well."

Edberg defeated Andre Agassi, seeded no. 2 this year, to win last year's tournament.

In a first-round match McEnroe, the 12th seed, struggled to beat Australia's Wally Masur 7-6 (7-5), 2-6, 7-5 in a 2½-hour contest.

The 32-year-old McEnroe, who Sunday beat his younger brother Patrick to win the Volvo Indoor in Chicago, had to cope with gusty winds outdoors.

"It was a tough transition to come from indoors to these high winds," he said. "It was a heck of a match anyway."

Leading 5-1 in the first set, Masur was at double set point when McEnroe battled back to win the game with two consecutive forehand volleys and a backhand passing shot.

In the tiebreaker, McEnroe relied on three aces, to take the set.

Masur came back in the second, winning the last four games. And after McEnroe took a 4-2 lead in the third set, Masur came back to take the next two games.

Tied at 5-5 Masur lost his serve in the 11th game at love. McEnroe then served out the match.

Masur, who has beaten McEnroe once in six meetings, was proud of his effort.

"I played as well as I've played

all year," he said. "I was surprised to see him come from an indoor tournament and do as well as he did."

Meanwhile, U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras withdrew from the \$1-million tournament Tuesday because of a muscle injury to his right calf.

"Obviously, I'm very disappointed to be forced to miss a tournament of this calibre which is held in my own backyard," said Sampras, who is from the Los Angeles suburb of Rancho Palos Verdes. "Right now, it's a day-to-day thing. I hope I can return to competitive play as soon as possible."

Sampras, who was seeded fourth, will be replaced in the main draw by "lucky loser" Francisco Clavet of Spain.

In two other matches involving seeded players, no. 16 Jim Courier defeated Byron Black of Zimbabwe 6-1, 7-6 (7-1) in a second-round match and Steve Bryan dropped 15th-seeded Juan Aguilera of Spain 6-3, 6-1 in the first round.

This is the third tournament the 19-year-old Sampras has withdrawn from due to injury this year.

"I'm very concerned," he said. "Especially at the age I am. Nineteen is pretty young. It doesn't look very positive with my being injured as much as I am at 19."

"Just think about what it will be like when I'm 21 or 25," he said.

Sampras said he expects to be out for two weeks and hopes to return in time for the International Players Championship beginning on March 15 in Key Biscayne, Florida.

In January, Sampras pulled out of the Australian Open because of shin splints. He quit his third-round match at the Volvo-Memphis Tournament.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY MARCH 8, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There are a number of very interesting situations that apply to you personally so don't look to others for the answers you need but rather find the yourself.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There are some pretty quiet arrangements being made that apply to you and you would be wise to state your ideas to others so they can be what you really desire.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A very active friend who has had a great deal of experience shows you what to do to get what you want with less obvious effort on your part.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look for the silver lining in that meeting you have with an official of importance and get him to go along with a well thought plan.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever you would like to do now requires that you do look at some new formula that has been brought in light and that can be applied to your own wishes.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are activated to think about some course that does require you to be more exact and particular than you have been for sometime.

LIBRA: (Sept. 23 to October 22) Whatever you can meet with partners is excellent for in a conference with them now you can come in a new understanding of how to get ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) It is certainly evident that your urge for a new attitude towards life and your work can bring you much desirable support from those you know.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Let someone you like be aware of your devotion by taking them to some entertainment they like or giving them some present that appeals.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make a point to seek from those about you some way that you can please members of your household for you doubtless have run of ideas.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make a point to use that fine mind that is yours now and that is touched off to your benefit by the planetary positions to increase your happiness.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever brings you more income or revenue now is excellent so look into new means of making money and then consult with usual companions and partners.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he enjoys a quick and alert mind that is alive to even the most complicated possibilities. They will see the most logical way to achieve the goals they desire most and have prophetic insight where the future is concerned. Be sure this child learns to complete projects that they start.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY MARCH 7, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be dealing with financial circumstances that are vital to your economic security through another person who is very aware of how to get a maximum success from small beginnings.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Some situation with an associate who does some service for you could be anything so try not to do anything that could upset this condition.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) An argument between an attachment and a friend is really no concern of yours so make sure you do not become involved or there could be trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Your credit can come under attack if you are unwise or start any sort of argument or take chances with your public image at this time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are a number of clever persons who are trying to sell you a bill of goods that is anything but honest so study it carefully.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the moment when you are able to know the right answer to your problems because you now have such prophetic insight and others are willing to back you.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is the time to get in conference with partners, whether new one or those of long standing, to formulate plans for the future.

LIBRA: (Sept. 23 to October 22) Take some time out to beautify your surroundings so that you have a greater feeling of wellbeing.

peace and harmony in your life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you most desire from that individual who means the most to you is possible if you do make sure that you are the one who does amuse him/her.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You can now relax and have a happier time at home than for some time past and are even able to entertain there with some good friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Make sure that you do hold steady to the many improvements you have been making to your everyday affairs and get allies to go along with you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now are able to gain the good will of bankers, and businessmen who you need in order to get ahead faster in making the money you need.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a special charm and magnetism today that can aid you to gain your heart's desire and by letting others know your aims you want done.

Today's child: If your child were born today she or he manifests an evident interest in a very solid and secure, stable course that eliminates the fear of lack of want. Once this child has set their mind on anything there is no letting up until their goals are won or the project achieved.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

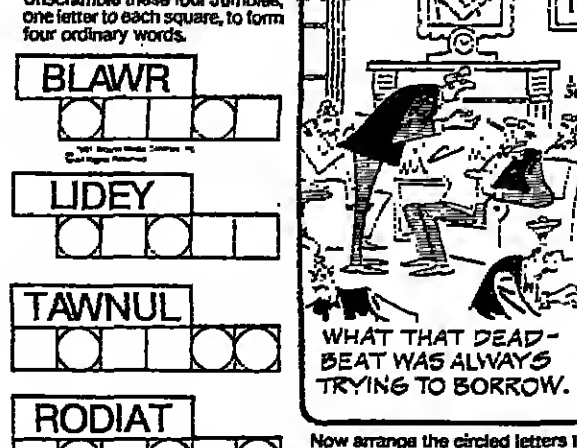
THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



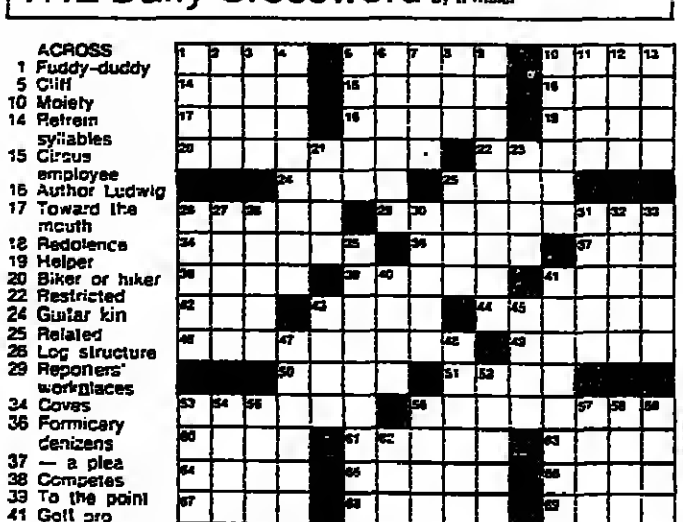
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: HIS OF OF OF OF (Answers tomorrow)

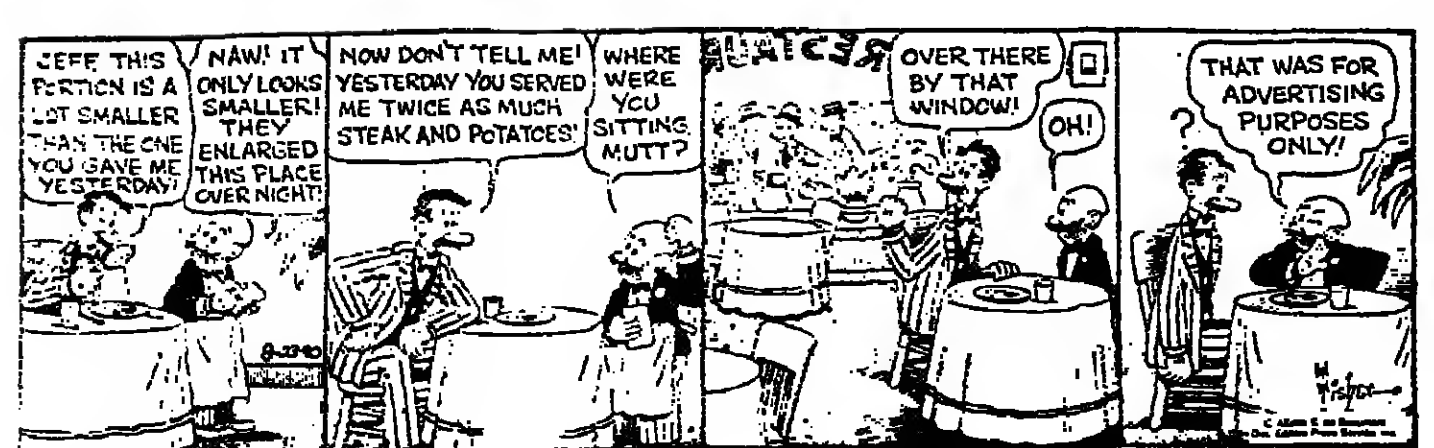
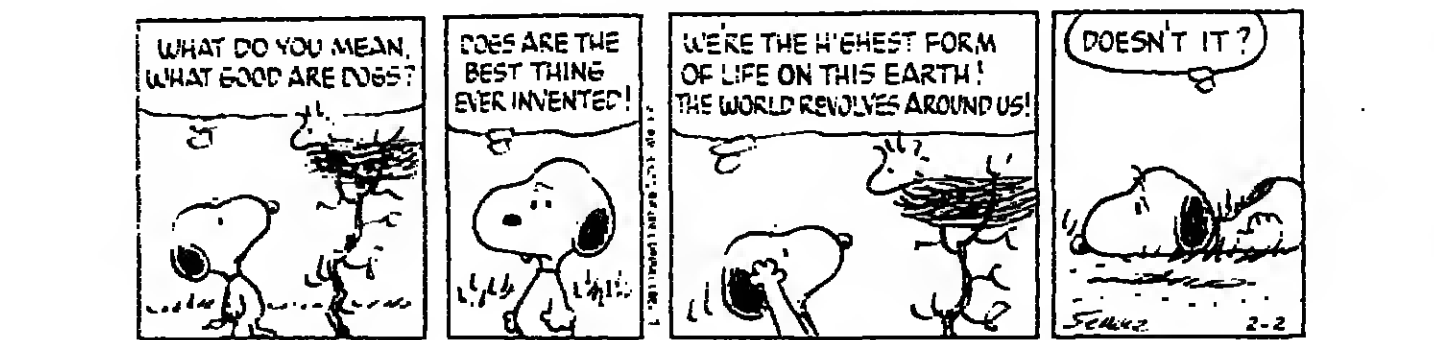
Yesterday's Jumbles: LEAVE CEASE SOLACE PSYCHE

Answer: What a not-so-bright guy would be if he said what was in his mind—SPEECHLESS

THE Daily Crossword by L. Miller



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



Iran, N.Korea sign oil deal

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has signed an agreement to sell a million tonnes of crude oil to North Korea annually over the next five years, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Iran was to export a million tonnes of crude to North Korea in 1990 as part of a \$600 million trade agreement signed last May.

Pakistan seeks gas from Qatar

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan is negotiating with Qatar to import natural gas. Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Nisar Ali Khan has said.

He told the lower house of parliament plans called for laying a gas pipeline from Qatar to the Pakistani city Karachi within four years under World Bank supervision.

"Preliminary talks in this regard have already been completed," he said, but gave no details.

A spokesman for Crescent Petroleum Company International of Sharjah, the United Arab Emirates, said in Islamabad last week the pipeline would be laid under an agreement between the Qatari government and his company without any Pakistani financial obligation.

Most of the 1,600 kilometre pipeline would be under sea, he said.

Poland attracts Coca-Cola

WARSAW (R) — Coca-Cola Co. of the United States will invest nearly \$50 million to build three soft drink factories in Poland, a senior company executive has said.

Neville Isdell, Coca-Cola's representative for northern and eastern Europe and Africa, said the investment was the biggest announced by any U.S. company in Poland since the collapse of communism in 1989.

Gulf International Bank announces big loss, increases capital

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf International Bank (GIB) owned by six Gulf Arab states and Iraq, has announced a 1990 net loss of \$422.3 million.

It strengthened its capital base with a \$450 million injection by a Kuwaiti company.

GIB said it had set aside \$465 million in new provisions in 1990 against possible bad loans to borrowers whose financial status had been adversely affected by the Gulf war.

This had sent the Bahrain-based bank into loss again in the calendar year reporting period. In 1989, it announced a net \$692.49 million loss after previous loan loss provisions.

However, GIB received \$450 million from a new shareholding by Gulf Investment Corporation (GIC), the bank said.

This long-awaited capital increase together with falls in the bank's exposure has significantly improved GIB's capital ratios, which are a measure of the bank's financial stability.

"I am very satisfied with the credit quality of our assets following the large provisions made both in this and previous years."

said GIB General Manager Ghazi Abdul Jawad in the statement released by the bank.

GIC, which reincorporated in Bahrain after the Iraqi invasion, is one of the most financially sound, surviving Kuwait institutions, banking sources say.

The sources said the GIC move would cover much of GIB's loan risks toward Iraq, and would dilute the Iraqi holding in GIB.

The six other shareholders are Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. The bank gave no details of the new share structure.

Ghazi told Reuters in an interview last week that GIC's move was meant as a long-term investment.

He also said Iraq's position as both shareholder and debtor of GIB might have worried other banks but that GIB's financial position was now secure and his bank was fully provisioned against country exposure.

The bank's total assets at the end of 1990 fell sharply to \$6.59 billion from \$9.89 due to "asset realisations and scheduled redemptions," the bank said, but gave no further details.

Kuwait agrees to reemploy Bangladeshis

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshis who lost their jobs after Iraq invaded Kuwait would be reemployed by the emirate, government officials said Wednesday.

"Kuwait has agreed to reemploy Bangladeshis who had been forced to leave the emirate after the invasion by Iraq," one official said.

"People having experience in reconstruction work will get priority. Others will go back to their jobs in phases," he added.

A total of 70,000 Bangladeshis lost their jobs because of the Gulf crisis. Dhaka says it expects all 70,000 to be reemployed in phases.

The U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea, Sri Lanka and Thailand lost nearly \$1.5 billion in remittances from workers who fled the Gulf.

Bangladesh said its losses totalled nearly \$100 million by last month. Repatriation of Bangladeshis had in addition cost around \$30 million, though this was partly funded by external sources, officials said.

Egyptian businessmen want piece of Kuwait reconstruction cake

CAIRO (R) Egyptian businessmen are worried that government let-bargy is threatening their chances of a bite of Kuwait reconstruction cake.

Egypt was a key Arab of the alliance that recaptured Kuwait from Iraqi troops. A fair share of rebuilding contracts could ease many of its economic woes, including a shortage of foreign currency and growing unemployment.

But a week after Kuwait was liberated, businessmen were still confused about what to do.

All most of them know is that the Kuwaiti government has drawn up plans to restore economic life to the pillaged emirate and that U.S. and British companies are scooping up contracts.

"It is a cake and there is an eating competition," said Samir Aalam, chairman of the state-owned Nasr contracting Company.

"We must knock on the door of the Kuwaiti government to find out what they want. We can't get ready unless we know the project and its volume to plan financing and other things," he added. "It was known Kuwait would be liberated, destroyed and reconstructed. The Americans and Europeans have overtaken us, but it is not too late if we move now."

The cost of rebuilding Kuwait has been estimated at up to \$100 billion over the next decade. Businessmen say Egypt could handle up to 10 per cent of that.

"If we organise ourselves, definitely it is possible. If we don't, we will win nothing and do nothing," said Hussein Sabour, head of a private consultancy firm.

Some businessmen said the Egyptian government had been "too shy" to ask the Kuwaitis for a stake until they prodded it.

Some officials agreed they had considered it up to the Kuwaitis to ask for help to rebuild their country, saying: "They invited us for liberation, not for reconstruction."

Sabour's response: "If we wait for an invitation to reconstruct while sitting with one leg crossed over the other, then we'll sit at home until all the contracts are given away."

The Egyptian government started to contact banks in January to discuss financing for reconstruction projects.

Until now, however, there have been no direct talks with Kuwaiti officials — other than a round last month with the emirate's health and trade ministers which brought Cairo 13 per cent of a three-month emergency plan to provide Kuwait with medicine, doctors and drivers.

Egypt, which sent 35,000 troops to help liberate Kuwait,

could sorely do with much more. Businessmen now are pressing banks to cut red tape and facilitate loans to finance reconstruction projects.

They say Egypt could send labourers to Kuwait to replace more than 500,000 expatriates, mainly Asians and Palestinians, who have left since the crisis began.

It also wants a stake in construction projects, either in joint ventures with foreign firms or through sub-contracts.

"We need the government to support us, to introduce us to the Kuwaitis, like British Prime Minister John Major did," said Mohammad Ghanem, secretary-general of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association.

Before the war began, Major took the heads of several British firms with him to Saudi Arabia to meet exiled Kuwaiti officials.

Japan puts final stamp on Gulf aid package

TOKYO (R) — The Gulf war may be over but it took until Wednesday for Japan to put the final stamp of approval on its \$9 billion pledge for the U.S.-led Gulf force.

After weeks of heated debate in parliament, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu won approval for his pledge of war funds when legislators formally passed a package of bills to provide the funds.

Japan is expected to deliver the money by the end of March to a Gulf cooperation fund it set up last year to handle its contributions to the region. A committee of six allied Arab nations oversees the fund.

The bills were passed in the lower house last week. The upper house approved the package in a budget committee Tuesday and formally passed it at a full session Wednesday.

Kaifu first announced the \$9 billion pledge in January shortly after the war started. It came under attack almost immediately when parliament resumed on Jan. 25 after a new year recess.

Only after the ruling party negotiated a deal with two centrist opposition parties did Kaifu win support for his pledge. In return he had to promise to cut defence spending.

Government officials unveiled details Wednesday of a plan to send a survey team to the Middle East to determine the type of postwar aid Japan should offer.

The 14-member mission, made up of experts on pollution, wildlife and water sanitation, will leave this week on a 10-day tour of Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, the foreign ministry said.

Team members, drawn from various government agencies, will examine oil spills and burning oil wells in the region.

In the weeks ahead, Kaifu's government is expected to unveil an aid package for the Middle East and Asian countries affected by the Gulf crisis.

Although no official figure has been stated, ruling party leaders have said it will be in the range of \$10 billion.

Manila lost \$600m from Gulf crisis

TOKYO (R) — The Philippines lost \$600 million because of the Gulf crisis but Japan made up some of the loss through additional credits, visiting Philippine Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao told a luncheon Wednesday.

Initial estimates put the losses, due to higher oil prices and lost remittances from the Middle East, at \$800 million but stabilisation measures introduced in September and December cut the figure by \$200 million, he said.

Last week in Hong Kong, major donor countries and international organisations pledged \$3.3 billion in fresh loans and aid to the Philippines, with Japan the biggest donor.

Estanislao said he had expected \$800-\$900 million from Japan but because of the Gulf crisis Tokyo boosted the figure to \$1.3 billion.

He said he met with leaders of the Kuwaiti government in exile in Saudi Arabia in December when they promised him a high priority would be given to Philippine technicians, engineers and

construction workers in the reconstruction of Kuwait.

Half a million Filipinos worked in Saudi Arabia before the crisis and a large number in Kuwait, he said. All planned to go back.

Tomas Alcantara, vice chairman of the Philippine Board of Investments, said Japan was the biggest foreign investor in his country, with \$304 million in equity investments in 1990 — 32 per cent of total foreign investment — up from \$156 million in 1989.

Second last year was Hong Kong, with \$207 million up from \$181 million, third was Taiwan with \$139 million down from \$147 million, and fourth the United States with \$59 million, down from \$130 million, he said.

In January, Japanese firms made equity investments worth \$29 million, about 25 per cent of total foreign investment, he said.

"The Gulf crisis did not dampen the pace and rate of investment registrations during the second half of 1990, as we had feared," Alcantara said.

U.S. eases Moroccan debt

RABAT (R) — The United States has agreed to reschedule \$128 million of Morocco's debt.

The U.S. embassy said in a statement the agreement covered all debts and arrears falling due between Jan. 1, 1990, and March 31, 1991. Payments would be rescheduled for 20 years with a 10-year grace period at "advantageous interest rates."

JORDAN TIMES
TEL. 667171

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES					
Wednesday, March 6, 1991					
Central Bank official rates					
	Buy	Sell			
U.S. dollar	668.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	469.5	492.4
Pound Sterling	1261.5	1269.1	Dutch guilder	333.8	386.1
Deutschmark	432.3	434.9	Swedish crown	116.6	117.3
Swiss franc	496.5	499.5	Italian lira (for 100)	58.0	58.3
French franc	127.0	127.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	211.8	213.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.			
One Sterling	1.8870/80	U.S. dollar	
One U.S. dollar	1.1577/82	Canadian dollar	
	1.3433/40	Deutsche mark	
	1.7395/7405	Dutch guilder	
	1.3443/50	Swiss franc	
	31.80/84	Belgian franc	
	5.2550/2600	French franc	
	1153/1154	Italian lire	
	136.35/45	Japanese yen	
	5.7225/75	Swedish crown	
	6.0330/80	Norwegian crown	
	5.9320/70	Danish crown	
One ounce of gold	363.60/364.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS			
SYDNEY — Shares were dragged lower by gloomy job statistics and last week's news of \$1.3 billion of new share issues. The All Ordinaries index ended 8.3 down at 1387.2.			
TOKYO — Stocks closed moderately firmer in light trade with many investors sidelined by uncertainty about interest rates and the economy. The Nikkei rose 94.45 to 25,976.02.			
HONG KONG — Shares closed higher, recovering from early losses on late institutional buying. The Hang Seng index rose 11.97 points to 3,564.34 after hitting a low of 3,536.			
SINGAPORE — Shares closed higher across the board on renewed buying interest with some profit-taking also seen. The Straits Times index ended up 9.87 at 1,472.85.			
BOMBAY — Prices ended higher government proposed no fresh taxes in the interim budget. The BSE index rose 5.03 points to 1,225.44, after peaking at 1,231.29. The National index gained 4.63 to 611.98.			
FRANKFURT — German shares ended 0.9 per cent higher with the DAX index at 1,530.86. One dealer said strong early gains for insurer Allianz helped swing prices higher.			
PARIS — The Paris bourse posted a six-month closing high on continued expectations of interest rate cuts, traders said. The CAC-40 index closed at 1,766.74. Up 19.95 points or 1.14 per cent.			
ZURICH — Swiss shares closed slightly higher in quiet trading, dealers said. The all-share SPI index rose 11.8 points, or 1.17 per cent, to 1,022.8.			

Mercedes launches super 'S'

GENEVA (R) — Mercedes-Benz has unveiled its new "S" class super cars and promptly bumped up prices by 20 per cent over the luxury series of the same name they replace.

In a speech at the launch, Mercedes-Benz A.G. board member Jurgo Hubbert said "S" class prices in Germany would range from 77,000 marks to 174,000 (\$50,000 to \$113,000) before taxes.

The launch coincides with declining demand in the United States, the world's biggest market for luxury cars.

In addition, analysts say, competition from Japanese manufacturers in this class is threatening to spread to Europe from the United States.

"At a time when the public is concerned with (exhaust) emissions and waste, Mercedes comes up with bigger cars, with bigger engines, more of everything," said Sanjay Dabysingh, automotive group director at McGraw Hill's London-based forecasting group DRI.

"As it's Mercedes they'll get away with it. But if they were designing it now they wouldn't have made it so big," he said.

The new "S" class cars have engines ranging from a 3.2 litre six cylinder unit, 4.2 and 5 litre V-8s, and a 6 litre V-12.

Mercedes says the cars have catalytic converters to reduce exhaust emissions, and many of the car's parts are recyclable.

"This car will carry all before it," said John Lawson, executive director of Nomura Research Institute in London.

Last year Mercedes said it sold 60,340 "S" class cars worldwide, against 43,455 for its main rival, the BMW 7 series.

"It's certainly going to sell exceptionally strongly and it appears to be a fantastic product," said Stephen Reitman, European motor analyst at UBS Phillips and Drew.

"But there are questions for the longer term. The first 18 months will give very little indication of long-term success. Initially it will be selling mainly to existing Mercedes owners eager to be seen to have the new one," he said.

IMF examines price rises of major nations

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prices paid by consumers in major industrial countries including the United States rose by five per cent in 1990, faster than in any year since 1983, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported.

The rate in the United States, which hit a low of 1.9 per cent in 1986, has been rising again since then. It reached 5.4 per cent in 1990.

Britain had the sharpest increase, from five per cent in 1984 to 9.5 per cent last year.

West Germany and France were exceptions. The German rise in this measure of inflation last year was the smallest among the major countries: 2.7 per cent, slightly less than the 2.8 per cent of 1989.

The fund has not yet included in its statistics the figures for what was formerly East Germany.

In France the rate of increase dropped from 9.6 per cent in 1983 to 3.4 per cent in 1990. Canada also reported a slowing rate for 1990, 4.8 per cent instead of 1989's five per cent.

The 1990 figure for Italy was not in, but the rate dropped there from 14.7 per cent in 1984 to 6.3 per cent in 1989.

Japan maintained its reputation for low inflation. Japanese prices failed to rise at all in 1987, but did go up by 3.1 per cent in 1990.

Of the 23 countries listed as industrial, 1990 figures were available for six.

"The most marked increases were for Greece, to 20.4 per cent in 1990 from 13.7 per cent in 1989; Sweden to 10.5 per cent from 6.4 per cent and Switzerland to 5.4 per cent from 3.2 per cent," the fund's "IMF Memorandum" reported.

It also noted an increase in foreign reserves all over the world for the fifth year in a row, to a total of \$897 billion in 1990. The overall increase amounted to 6.9 per cent.

Japan's reserves dropped to \$78 billion but remained the world's highest. Reserves in the United States rose to \$72 billion, the second highest level. Germany and Italy were next in line.

Reserves in Third World countries also increased, though at a slower rate than among industrial countries. There was a small decline in the Middle East and in the oil exporting countries as a group.

Inflation in Peru drops

LIMA (AP) — Peru's crippling inflation slowed substantially in February, when prices rose by only 7.3 per cent, according to a private economic consulting company.

The Apoyo Company said that February's rate was less than half the rate of the previous month, when prices rose 16.4 per cent. Apoyo said accumulated inflation over the past twelve months totalled 7,177.7 per cent. At February's rate, prices would rise about 130 per cent over 12 months.

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Maxwell buys N.Y. newspaper

NEW YORK (R) — British publisher Robert Maxwell has agreed to buy the New York Daily News, pulling the tabloid back from the brink of closure after a bitter four-month strike, the newspaper's owners announced Tuesday.

The sale of Maxwell's Mirror Group newspapers is subject to agreement with nine unions which have been embroiled in the grueling strike with the paper's management.

The Daily, owned by the Tribune Company of Chicago and once the largest-circulation U.S. newspaper, has been crippled by the strike that began Oct. 25. The management of the Daily News said Monday it would close the newspaper by March 15 unless a buyer could be found.

Earlier Tuesday, representatives of the Daily News's nine striking unions said Maxwell would meet them Thursday for talks on the future of the newspaper.

In a statement, the company said: "The letter of intent also provides that the Daily News will not hold discussions or negotiations relating to the sale of the newspaper with any other party." Terms of the sale were not immediately available.

George McDonald, president of the Allied Printing Trades Council, the umbrella group of the nine unions that have been on strike, told reporters at newspaper guild headquarters he was confident a final agreement with Maxwell could be reached. He said Maxwell had set a March 11 deadline for forging the contract agreements.

McDonald said the phone rang Tuesday morning and he heard a British accent. "It was good news," he said. "Maxwell said 'give me the word and I'm on the next plane.'"

Talks will go on around the clock if necessary to reach a deal. McDonald said the unions are expected to make massive concessions to save jobs and ultimately rescue the paper.

"If both sides shake their heads in the same direction then we can get it done in 48 hours," McDonald said. "Any offer we get will be better than what we've got now with the News management."

TODAY AT

Cinema Tel: 625155

RAINBOW

THE RESCUE

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

THE PUNISHER

3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

BROOKE SHIELDS (...) IN KING OF THE GYPSIES

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOU

THE RICK SHOW

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
Friday & Sunday extra show at 11:30 a.m.

Cinema Tel: 699238

PLAZA

1-ITALIAN A RIO

Show: 5:00 p.m. only

2- NEVER FALL IN LOVE

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 7:15, 9:15 p.m.

Indian government resigns over Gandhi surveillance row

NEW DELHI (IR) — Indian Prime Minister Chandrashekhara, whose tiny four-month-old minority government depended on the erratic support of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party, quit Wednesday and asked for new elections.

"I have recommended there should be a fresh mandate from the people," Shekhar told reporters after emerging from the presidential palace and saying his resignation had been accepted.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman would decide within 24 hours whether he would agree to call elections or ask someone else to try to form a government, Shekhar said.

Congress Party sources said Gandhi was warring members of various parties in an effort to form a government himself.

"We have to accept the realities of politics and arithmetic is one of those realities," Shekhar said in a rambling and emotional speech in a Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) deserted by

Congress but packed with opposition members ready to vote him out.

Opposition leaders said before Shekhar's surprise announcement that they would take advantage of Congress's absence to move a no-confidence motion against his government.

Congress boycotted parliament for a second day Wednesday, demanding that Shekhar name the person who ordered two policemen from neighbouring Haryana state to keep watch on Gandhi's New Delhi residence.

Gandhi, whose Congress is the largest party in the house, let Shekhar take office last November, offering him support on terms which put the government's life-span at Gandhi's mercy.

Gandhi has been increasingly critical of the Shekhar government in recent weeks, especially about a government decision allowing U.S. military transport planes to refuel in India on their way to and from the Gulf.

"Congress is a political party that supports us, but there's a limit to what we can accept. Beyond a certain limit we are not bound to accept their advice," Shekhar told the Lok Sabha.

"I don't know if their support is there or not, but I cannot run the government after seeing their conduct," he declared.

Gandhi refused to say if Congress would stake a claim to government.

He told reporters Congress had not withdrawn its support but said it was sad that the government had not taken "appropriate action" against those responsible for the surveillance on him.

"In spite of our support, the government... did not trust us enough and put us under surveillance," he said.

Politicians linked the spying incident with Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, whose power base is Haryana and whose critics accuse him of tortuous political intrigue.

Devi Lal was instrumental in

helping Shekhar engineer a split in the Janata Dal Party of former Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

"This is not a political crisis, it is a constitutional crisis," L.K. Advani, leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) told parliament just before Shekhar's bombshell announcement.

He said the government had postponed the budget for the fiscal year that began next month and there were no provisions yet on how to finance the government in the meantime.

"The Congress Party has acted like a puppeteer," Advani said. "Never in 40 years (of Indian independence) has there been so much political instability and uncertainty," he said.

"The country is going to rack and ruin," Communist Party of India leader Inderjit Gupta told the chamber. "No one is discussing the economic crisis... we spend all our time on how to make and unmake governments."

In a stronger electoral showing than expected, the Janata Party took 35 of parliament's 300 seats — including five won by Ershad himself.

Multiple candidacies are commonplace in Bangladesh as a way of demonstrating support for politicians and hedging against defeat in a single constituency. But winners are allowed to keep only one seat, with by-elections held in the others.

"We will not go to parliament keeping our leader in detention," Mizan Chowdhury told the demonstrators, who responded with shouts of "release Ershad or else we will take to the streets."

Ershad's first trial, on the weapons charge, is scheduled to

ANC rejects S. African census as racist

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) has rejected the South African government's plans to hold a census Thursday that will poll inhabitants according to race and that excludes many black townships.

The ANC said in a statement it had every reason to fear that the census, held every 10 years, would be less than complete.

"The government appears to be intent on carrying out a tawdry sleight of hand which will entail separate and distinct processes for enumerating whites on the one hand and Africans on the other," the ANC said.

"Considering this will probably be the last census conducted before a democratic election, a great deal depends on its reliability and accuracy," the statement said.

The government's Central Statistical Service (CSS) has announced that aerial surveys would be carried out over many large black townships where political unrest made it impossible to carry out door-to-door surveys.

South Africa's four nominally independent homelands, where more than one third of South Africa's 28 million blacks are estimated to live, are carrying out separate surveys. Much of the information gathered is not to be made public.

The government says anyone not cooperating with the census will be fined 1,000 rand (\$400) and a further fine of 50 rand (\$20) for every day they refuse to cooperate.

The ANC stopped short of calling for a census boycott, saying only that the poll would fail to give an accurate reflection of the population.

Meanwhile South Africa's first parliamentary by-election of the year will Wednesday test white opinion of reformist President F.W. de Klerk's promise to remove the remaining pillars of apartheid.

The ruling National Party (NP) and the white supremacist Conservative Party (CP) both predict that the government will retain the Maitland constituency in Cape Town.

But CP organizer Herman Van Der Walt said his party, which advocates white domination and return to the rigid racial segregation of apartheid, would post significant gains on its estimated 1989 base of 1,000 supporters in the area.

"The National Party is going to get a big shock," he said. NP and CP organizers gave similar predictions of the likely result — both said they expected the CP to poll around 3,000 votes with the NP taking 5,000 to 6,000 votes.

The likely difference will be in the interpretation of the vote, with the NP hailing any win as an endorsement of reform and the CP claiming any gain as a condemnation of integration.

NP Cabinet Minister Keet Durr, who has been named as South Africa's new ambassador to London, edged home in the 1989 national election with a 1,400 majority over the Liberal Democratic Party (DP).

Police turn back Ershad supporters from home

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Police turned back about 1,000 supporters of former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad who tried to march Wednesday to the house where the former Bangladeshi leader is detained.

Demonstrators scuffled with police at a barred wire barricade, but no injuries were reported.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting president of Ershad's Jatiya Party, vowed to launch a campaign of street demonstrations to press for the former president's release.

Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless 1982 military coup, resigned the presidency in December after massive protests against what opponents called his corrupt and authoritarian rule. He has been under house arrest since Dec. 12.

Although facing trial on charges that include illegal possession of firearms, corruption and abuse of power, Ershad was permitted by law to run in last week's parliamentary election because he has not yet been convicted of any offences.

In a stronger electoral showing than expected, the Jatiya Party took 35 of parliament's 300 seats — including five won by Ershad himself.

Multiple candidacies are commonplace in Bangladesh as a way of demonstrating support for politicians and hedging against defeat in a single constituency. But winners are allowed to keep only one seat, with by-elections held in the others.

"We will not go to parliament keeping our leader in detention," Mizan Chowdhury told the demonstrators, who responded with shouts of "release Ershad or else we will take to the streets."

Ershad's first trial, on the weapons charge, is scheduled to

start on March 19. If convicted, he automatically would lose his parliament seat. The charge carries a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Ershad's supporters were stopped by police about three blocks from the home where the 60-year-old retired army general is under house arrest.

The biggest winner in the Feb. 27 election was Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh National Party, which captured 140 seats. Mrs. Zia, 46, is expected to form the next government with the support of small parties or independents.

The surprise loser was the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina, 43. It won 84 seats, and smaller allied parties took another 11.

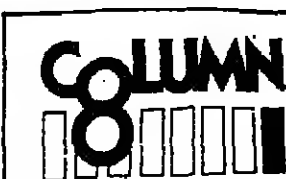
Hasina offered to resign as party president Sunday, but Awami League Secretary General Sajeda Chowdhury said Wednesday she has withdrawn the offer.

Hasina has decided to remain at the head of the party in the "greater interest of the organization and the country," Awami League General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury said.

"Thousands of party leaders and workers have requested Hasina to lead our party... and she has accepted their request," Sajeda said.

Newspapers said Hasina tendered her resignation because of criticism of her handling of the election campaign. Critics inside and outside the party have accused her of arrogance and engaging in personal attacks on Mrs. Zia, undermining the Awami League's superior grassroots organization.

The elections marked Bangladesh's first democratic transition of power in the 20 years since it won its independence from Pakistan in a war.



Teacher plotted 'black widow' murder

EXETER, New Hampshire (R) — A 23-year-old New England teacher went on trial here accused by prosecutors of being a scheming seductress who convinced three teenage pupils to kill her newlywed husband. Defence lawyers for New Hampshire high-school teacher Pamela Smart maintain the three teenagers who confessed to the murder, including one who was her lover, acted alone and were "thrill killers."

The case has become known as the "black widow" murder trial, taking its name from a spider naive to the United States that occasionally devours its mate.

Prosecutor Diane Nicolosi told jurors Smart twice plotted with her student lover, William Flynn, to kill her husband, Gregory. She first began to seduce the then 16-year-old Flynn in February 1990, months before the May 1 killing of Gregory Smart, 24, Nicolosi said.

The murder occurred a week before the couple's first wedding anniversary, when Smart was at a school board meeting. The motive, Nicolosi said, was fear that Smart would be left with nothing if her husband uncovered the affair and divorced her. She had a \$140,000 life insurance policy on him.

Flynn and two schoolmates — Vincent Lattime, 18, and Patrick Randall, 17 — have pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the killing. They are expected to testify against Smart.

Sensible styles, bright colours set tone in Milan

MILAN (AP) — The Italian designers are playing it safe for next winter, offering a sensible wardrobe of softly tailored dresses and skirts and loads of sporty knitwear. The look is spruced up by short hemlines and colours as bright as a neon sign. There is no room for frill or fuss in the 1991-1992 fall-winter collections. A short a-line is the basic silhouette, with candid black and white checks and plaid patterns replacing the demure floral prints of last winter. To underline the hushed mood which after the Gulf war has settled like a Milan morning fog on the usually exuberant fashion crowd, the designers are also showing a lot of quiet grays. But if spirits are low, hemlines are still up with the new mini skirt either flared or pleated. Leggings and unitards contribute to make the look sporty rather than sexy. Pants are so tapered that they are often no more than tailored leggings, worn under long bulky sweaters or three-quarter flared robe jackets. On the second day of the five-day Milan showings, Byblos and Ferragamo showed their version of the down-played winter look. Keith Varty for Byblos had no trouble adjusting to the new mood, he just continued to do what he is best at, sporty young outfits which look good both in town and country. Famous for his bulky knit sweaters, he pearls and knits a few more stitches for next winter, to turn a pullover into a sweater dress either in black and white checks or a Nordic motif cable knit. Leggings play heavily in his new collection, often a fashion item on their own worn under a wool jacket, or as part of his skating skirt look.

Chinese pig, duck farms may be flu epidemic source

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Chinese pig and duck farms may be the source of major influenza epidemics that periodically sweep the world, according to a French flu expert. Professor Claude Hannoun, director of the National Influenza Centre at Paris' Pasteur Institute, said Monday that there is evidence that hybrid human-animal flu viruses are involved in these outbreaks. Such hybrid viruses could easily form when ducks and pigs are kept together in confined spaces, as they are in central China, where the epidemics characteristically originate, said Hannoun. Hannoun was in Sydney to advise medical experts on an improved national flu surveillance system. Genetic studies of the strain of influenza in the 1968 outbreak, the most recent worldwide epidemic, suggest a pig-duck-human hybrid virus was responsible, he said. While humans cannot be infected with duck influenza virus or vice versa, pigs are susceptible to both, he said. The gene rearrangements are thought to result in a particularly virulent strain which can then spread rapidly among humans worldwide.

Leading Slovak movement splits

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia (AP) — Public Against Violence (PAV), the movement that led the revolt against communism and became the strongest political force in the eastern republic of Slovakia, is splitting, reports said Wednesday.

Slovakia's popular premier, Vladimir Meciar, walked out of a leadership meeting and announced formation of a separate faction, the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK) said.

Meciar's strong advocacy of Slovak interests has made him unpopular in the larger, western Czech republic and with leading members of the federal government in Prague.

But he is popular in Slovakia, the country's easternmost third where about 5 million of the country's 15 million people live. Demands for more independence from the Czechs have grown since the anti-Communist revolution of late 1989.

Meciar and his ally Milan Kuzak, the head of Slovakia's new office for foreign affairs, will form a new faction but try to stay within PAV, CTK said.

CTK reported later that the new faction would be called Public Against Violence — for Democratic Slovakia. It quoted Meciar as saying his group had the support of 16 of the movement's 42 districts in Slovakia.

Sri Lankan premier given defence post

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga was appointed deputy defence minister on Wednesday, succeeding Ranjan Wijeratne who was killed by a car bomb last week.

Wijetunga, who is also finance minister, was sworn in by President Ransinghe Premadasa, the president's office said.

The appointment was made as thousands of people streamed into the capital for Wijeratne's state funeral and cremation.

The minister was killed in an explosion that ripped apart his car in Colombo's Bambalapitiya district as he was going to work Saturday. Thirty-one other people died in the blast.

Police detained 200 Tamils — suspected members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) separatist group or its allies — for questioning about the bomb attack.

Wijeratne had directed a relentless war against Tamil guerrillas fighting in the north and east of the island for an independent state.

Police offered a \$25,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of those responsible.

The south-based Marxist People's Liberation Front, which Wijeratne snubbed in 1989, and casino operators investigated by the late minister were also suspects, police said.

Political analysts said the appointment of Wijetunga was a surprise because he was a soft-spoken and unaggressive minister. "He is too soft for the post," a Western diplomat said.

Wijetunga, 69, was appointed prime minister and minister of finance when the ruling United National Party won parliamentary polls in 1989.

He resigned as governor of the north-western province to contest the election. He is a close confidant of Premadasa.

U.K.'s ruling party could face election upset — poll

LONDON (R) — Britain's ruling Conservative Party could be facing an unexpected challenge in its attempt to hold on to its parliamentary seat this week in the first by-election since John Major took over as prime minister.

An opinion poll published in the Independent newspaper Wednesday showed support for the Conservatives in Ribbles Valley, northern England, at 45 per cent with the centrist Liberal Democrats at 34 per cent.

But the poll said one in three supporters of the opposition Labour Party and one in 10 Conservatives said they would switch to the Liberal Democrat candidate if he stood a chance of winning the seat Thursday.

The newspaper said a late tactical swing could bring just such a result, which could decisively affect the timing of the general election Major must call within the next 16 months — and possible as early as June.

The poll showed support for the Conservatives in the Ribbles Valley and slumped 16 points since the 1987 general election. The Liberal Democrats had gained 13 points and Labour, on 15 per cent, was unchanged.

On those findings the Conservatives would see their majority of 19,500 cut to 5,000.

"Tories in danger of poll upset," the headline on the Independent's front-page story said.

National opinion polls show Major, who took over from Margaret Thatcher in November, is as popular as any prime minister since World War II, but his party nationally enjoys only a narrow margin over Labour.

The Liberal Democrats usually do well in by-elections in traditional Conservative strongholds such as prosperous Ribbles Valley. The issue troubling voters most is the widely unpopular poll tax.

Bush more popular but discontent over economy remains

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. President George Bush soared to 90 per cent approval following victory in the Gulf, but Americans are still concerned about the economy, according to a poll.

The ABC News-Washington Post poll released Tuesday showed Bush riding a crest of popularity following the triumph in the Gulf. It showed he was 27 points ahead of the 63 per cent approval he scored in a similar survey three months ago.

A full 91 per cent expressed approval for the way Bush has handled the Gulf war. Just 19 per cent approved of the way he has handled the economy.

The poll was conducted Friday through Monday among a random sample of 1,215 adults nationwide. It has a margin of uncertainty of 3 percentage points either way.

Bush's net approval stood at 63 per cent on Dec. 2, climbed to 79 per cent Jan. 27 and then lofted to 90 per cent in the current survey.

Net disapproval tumbled from 33 per cent on Dec. 2 to 19 per cent on Jan. 29 and then fell to its current level of 9 per cent.

The 49 per cent approval of the way Bush is handling the economy did represent a slight upswing from the 45 per cent he scored on Jan. 27. In the current survey, 47 per cent expressed disapproval, a drop from 49 per cent on Jan. 27 that is within the margin of uncertainty.

Asked how the economy is faring, 10 per cent in the current poll said it was getting better, up from 6 per cent on Jan. 27. Fifty-three per cent said getting worse, down from 65 per cent and 36 per cent said the economy was staying the same, up from 28 per cent.

Nineteen per cent said they were better off financially than they were in 1989 when Bush became president, but 18 per cent said they were in worse financial shape. Sixty-three per cent said they were about the same.

Eighty per cent said the nation is not making enough progress on the budget deficit, poverty or crime.

Nearly 75 per cent said the nation should be making more progress on drugs and health care.

Seven in 10 were dissatisfied with progress on the economy and education, six in 10 with progress on the environment.

Bush Tuesday said American troops may have been safer in the Gulf war than they would have been walking the streets of some U.S. cities and called on Congress to pass stiffer crime laws.

"Now that the shooting has stopped overseas we've got to redouble our efforts to silence the guns here at home," Bush told a gathering of more than 650 police chiefs and law enforcement authorities.

Events bypassing Japan's foreign policy makers

TOKYO (AP) — From the collapse of the Soviet Bloc to the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, events that have upset power balances around the globe are bypassing Japan's tentative foreign-policy establishment.

And the world's No. 2 economic power is learning, slowly, that economic power may not be enough to gain the international respect and influence it craves.

While Western nations — and corporations — seize the spotlight in restructuring the postwar Mideast, Japan has lingered backstage, embarrassed by its political and diplomatic dithering over support for the Gulf war.

Kuwait has made clear its desire to award reconstruction contracts to countries that performed key roles in its liberation. Of 200 contracts awarded so far, 75 per cent went to U.S. companies and 22 per cent to British firms, the Japan Economic Journal reported.

None went to the Japanese, despite their long commercial ties to Kuwait. The government acknowledges it is asking corporations to do to business until asked to avoid looking like "economic invaders."

Adding insult to injury, Japan must watch while its one-time colony and growing economic rival, South Korea, moves swiftly to capitalise on the postwar Gulf and the vast changes in the Soviet

Union.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is set to make his first visit here next month, but Japan-Soviet relations remain chilled by a 45-year-old territorial dispute that has stymied trade. Korea, meanwhile, has quickly exploited its newly normalised relations with the Soviets, its eyes set on developing resource-rich Siberia. Japan has long prized the region.

Critics say foreign policy-makers here may have missed an historic chance to resolve the territorial dispute, which involves four northern islands seized by the Soviets at the end of World War II and claimed by Japan.

Kuniko Inoguchi, a Sophia University political economist, said Japan "failed to catch the stream" of Gorbachev's reform policies at his height of power in the late 1980s. In a newly conservative Soviet Union factions, some fear Gorbachev may no longer be in a position to yield territory.

For Japan, which adjusted skillfully to global economic changes such as the 1970s oil shocks and '80s trade frictions, it is deeply frustrating to be so befuddled by political change.

Much of the fault, analysts say, lies in the dramatic difference between Japan's formidable economic ministers and its politically weak diplomatic establishment.

The former, led by the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of International Trade and Industry, are empowered by a public consensus in favour of rapid economic growth. They also carry an aura of authority for overseeing Japan's "economic miracle."

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on the other hand, has long pushed for a more active foreign policy. But it remains strapped by public apathy and pacifism, as well as the stigma of being Washington's diplomatic yes-man.

"Bureaucrats in the economic ministries have a solid domestic base to cope with change. When they had to expand domestic demand (in response to trade pressures), they were confident of their power to ask every firm to expand its overseas purchases by 30 per cent," said Inoguchi.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, however, doesn't have a strong base in domestic society."

These differences are crucial in Japan's political system, where ministry bureaucrats often set policy while the ruling Liberal Democratic Party remains preoccupied with pork barrel politics and internal power struggles.

The result is a nation that often seems without a power centre, a problem that has emerged with embarrassing frequency during the Gulf crisis.

The government at different

times proposed sending non-combat troops, airplanes and medical teams. But each initiative disappeared in a tangle of bureaucratic infighting and public and-war seismism.

When Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu wanted to send passenger planes to ferry refugees, for example, the Foreign Ministry had to consult with the Transportation Ministry, which then needed to solicit agreement from Japan Airlines. The airlines, in turn, needed to consult the unions. They refused.

"We don't have emergency laws to empower the prime minister to make decisions by himself," said Masashi Nishihara, a political scientist at Japan's Defence Academy. "We need a law, for example, that would allow him to tell the Transportation Ministry to secure transport."

Japan finally did hire a few planes and offered \$13 billion for the allied effort, but only under strong U.S. pressure.

For Japan, the most comical aspect of the seven-month Gulf crisis has been that its most effective politician may have been Antonio Inoki, an ex-wrestler who is the sole member of an eccentric "Sports And Peace Party." Inoki flew to Baghdad twice, winning the release of some Japanese hostages.

Explained Nishihara: "He didn't have to consult with anyone."

U.S. police brutality captured on videotape

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The FBI is investigating a bawdiest videotape of what appeared to be a group of police officers beating a motorist with nightsticks and kicking him as other officers looked on.

"This is something we cannot and will not tolerate," Mayor Tom Bradley said Tuesday after viewing the video. "I am as shocked and outraged as anyone."

A copy of the videotape shot early Sunday was turned over to the police department's Internal Affairs Division for an excessive-force investigation, said deputy police chief William Booth.

FBI agents joined the probe to investigate possible civil rights violations, said spokesman Fred Reagan.

California Highway Patrol officers trying to stop a car they said was travelling more than 100 kilometres per hour requested assistance from city police, said Police Capt. Thomas McBride.

City police pulled the car over in the Lake View Terrace neighbourhood, 32 kilometres northwest of downtown, he said.

The videotape, taken by a neighbourhood resident, appears to show a man being struck repeatedly by three officers with batons as he lay on the ground. At one point, one officer was seen to kick the suspect.

The man also appeared to have been subdued with an electronic "stun gun."

The man, identified as Rodney Glenn King, 25, was booked for investigation of evading police officers, a felony. He was treated at a hospital and remained in jail Tuesday. No bail has been set.

Police refused to say what injuries King suffered or where he was treated.

Ramona Ripston of the American Civil Liberties Union said city police chief Daryl Gates "must be held responsible for this kind of brutal response."

"The time has come to take a very deep look at what the de-

partment does," she said. Gates described the incident as an "aberration."

"It is not the kind of conduct we have from our officers. I say this so one incident doesn't indict the entire department," Gates said.

Police brutality is common in the city, Mrs. Ripston said. "The difference this time is we have the proof. We have it on tape," she added.

George Holliday, 31, said he videotaped the alleged beating from his apartment balcony.

Holliday said he watched with his wife as a white Sedan was pulled over by about 10 squad cars. King, who was driving, got out of the car and lay face down on the pavement when three officers beat him for more than a minute, he said.

During the beating, two passengers remained in King's car. Police did not identify them.

"Before they started hitting him he was pretty much cooperative," Holliday said. "It was a weird feeling. I was trying to think, 'what could he have done to deserve that?'"

Police Lt. Fred Nixon said a police incident report indicated King "did not like the men in his car, did not go along willingly. It is impossible to look at a video and see what the situation was."

Roland Coleman of the Southern California Civil Rights Coalition said the officers acted "like beasts and animals."

In another videotaped case involving allegations of police brutality, jury selection was under way this week for two long beach policemen charged with assaulting black activist Don Jackson during a traffic stop on Jan. 14, 1989.

Both Dickey, 31, and his partner, Mark Ramsey, 29, were charged with filing a false report and were given stress-related disability retirement. Dickey also was charged with assault.